

It was time for the Passover, and this year making the trip to Jerusalem was filled with excitement, for we had high expectations that the promised Messiah was found in Jesus of Nazareth. You see, no one had ever performed the miraculous signs that Jesus did.

Everyone was talking about Jesus, and we all were sensing that this Passover would be special. So we packed a few things for the journey and set off for Jerusalem, filled with high hopes!

Shortly after our arrival, as we were making our way to our place of lodging, we heard a rumor that someone had been arrested by the temple guard just outside of the city. At the time we hadn't given it much thought, but when we got up early the next day and set out for the temple, we learned that it was Jesus who had been arrested and that he had been taken to Pilate.

By late that afternoon, Jesus—our hope for Israel's redeemer—had been crucified. The whole city seemed to have gone mad and we were in shock and disbelief at what had taken place. What we had thought was going to be the greatest event in history had turned out to be one of Israel's most ungodly hours that we had ever witnessed!

It was now the third day and Cleopas and I had lingered longer than we should have in the city, hoping to hear more on the report that some had gone to the tomb, finding it empty and seeing Jesus alive! It was just so hard to believe there was any truth to this.

We had to be on our way and so we headed back to Emmaus. At first neither of us said much; then I asked Cleopas what he thought about the recent events. We were discussing it along the road when another traveler asked if he could join us.

When he asked us what we were talking about, we couldn't believe that he was coming from the city and hadn't heard what had taken place; after all, every one was talking about it. When we told him how we had hoped that Jesus would be Israel's Redeemer, this traveler began quoting scripture to us, showing us how Jesus had to be the whole world's Redeemer. He talked as if there was no doubt about it, and I must admit he had our hearts burning within us, thinking that Jesus must have been the Hope of Israel.

As the day was quickly ending, we invited this traveler to join us for supper and to talk with us some more. It was at supper when the traveler broke bread with us that our eyes and our hearts were open to the fact that it was Jesus the Christ Himself with us!

The Hope and Redeemer of all mankind truly Lives!

Like it was for us, I want you to know that this Jesus is willing to reveal Himself to you, too! If you will spend some time with Him and hear His words, I know He will come in and sup with you!

**Luke 24:30-35 NIV**

***<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"***

***<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.***

See ya in church—a place where Christ opens the scriptures to us!