

June 2, 2013

Freedom from Discouragement

Luke 24:13-35



True Biblical freedom is release from the illegitimate bondage that keeps you from becoming the person God created you to be. Two things must connect before you can be free: truth of the Word, and a relationship with the Son. Information alone isn't enough. Information may "post bail" for you, but will never be enough to set you free.

dis-cour-age /dis'kərij/

To deprive of courage, to deter, to dishearten, or to hinder.

It's alarming to realize that so many Christian people live every day under a self-inflicted cloudy sky and pessimistic world. Discouragement is one of the greatest enemies we face in our personal lives.

The Disciples Had Two Problems:

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"

Luke 24:25 (NKJV)

1. They were acting foolishly
2. They had lost faith to believe
 - They had stopped believing; therefore, they had stopped seeing. Their hopelessness overcame their faith. They were willing to accept and admire a *dead Savior* – a great prophet who had been martyred – but they had great difficulty in accepting a risen Lord.

I. You Must Examine The Scripture

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:27

- The key to Bible study is to always be looking for Jesus, even when you are not reading about Jesus. Jesus is in the Old Testament *concealed*, but He is in the New Testament *revealed*.

II. You Must Experience The Savior

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him...
Luke 24:31

- Three Things That Happened When They Encountered Jesus:
 1. They found a change of heart
 2. They found a renewed strength
 3. They found a reason to share their testimony
- When a person truly experiences a relationship with Jesus Christ, that person does not have to be begged to be involved in the Kingdom. He will witness, he will find his place in his local church, he will find joy in giving, and the kingdom of God takes on an entire focus of his mind.