

EXCERPTS FROM

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Luke 24 ... Jesus Himself drew near and went with them ... They constrained Him saying, Abide with us ... The graphic story of the Emmaus road incident given to us by Luke has captured the imagination of writers and poets down through the centuries. The number of preachers too, who have based sermons upon this chapter must be legion. Have we not all, on many occasions turned to this closing portion of Luke's gospel, and these verses have never ceased to thrill us, every time some fresh truth shines forth, some hidden treasure is dug up. Such is the wonder of this Holy Volume - The Bible. However thumbed its pages, new glory and lustre will for ever shine from them, for they reveal truth which can NEVER be exhausted.

That which is narrated in these verses concerns the everyday of life, its teaching is intensely practical. It portrays the Lord Jesus seeking the companionship of two of His people. Not when they were in the sanctuary, not when they were engaged in some religious duty or endeavouring to carry out some Christian service, no, but when they were on the road. Two disciples going about their usual daily occupations heading for the

village whither they went, engaged in their ordinary duties, it was right here, in these circumstances, that the Lord Jesus drew near, and having drawn near, he did not call them aside into more congenial surroundings, or even ask them to raise the standard of their thoughts to a level which would have been more worthy. He took them just as He found them. He wanted a place at their side, for He knew full well how desperately they needed the comfort and consolation of the scriptures, and the warmth and re-assurance of His presence. For here were two people who were cast down and overwhelmed with grief - their world had fallen apart, disappointment and dismay clouded their souls, their faith was shattered, hopes dashed, all had gone adrift.

It is in these situations that the Lord desires to draw increasingly near and whispers "give me a place at your side that these circumstances may be sanctified by My presence". So taking His place BESIDE THEM, He expounded from all the scriptures HIMSELF. Wonderful book, every page stained with the blood of the Lamb, every page fragrant with Christ, as He walked and talked with them, two

pulses beat faster, two hearts began to burn, two pairs of eyes began to glisten and then the significant and solemn words in v.28, "He made as if He would have gone further". This was the test of their hearts. Had His words deeply affected them? Did they really appreciate His nearness? They did indeed: "Abide with us" said they, and constrained Him, - AND HE WENT IN AND TARRIED WITH THEM. They were not worthy of such a guest - they were blind, slow of heart, yea even fools, yet the Lord went in, taking them just as they were. Oh, wondrous grace!

Beloved, does not this story touch us afresh? Are we at the present moment weak in faith? Heart lukewarm? Love more ebb than flow? Then repeat the entreaty of the Emmaus Road ... Lord ... draw near ... abide with me, - even me. Are we oppressed with anxiety, and care, worried about our future? Allow Him to draw near. He will go with us. Perhaps we are entering some path of perplexity, clouds are encircling, circumstances are changing, prospects are not so good, does not this constrain us to pray, Abide with me? Have our friends or loved ones failed us and we feel desolate and lonely? Still say - Abide with me dear Lord. When sickness

invades our dwelling, or even death enters and snatches a loved one from our side leaving in our heart a wound that will never be healed until the resurrection morning, we can still pray no better prayer than: Lord - Abide with me.

When it is toward evening and it is obvious that the day is far spent, and the shadows begin to fall across the path, and it would seem as if the earthly house of this tabernacle must soon be taken down, even then, still pray: Abide with me blessed Lord and Saviour. So may we all, whatever be our experience or circumstance, live in the conscious presence of our Risen, Glorified Saviour.

W.H.M.

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing
word,
But as Thou dwelt with Thy
disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient,
free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide
with me.

I need Thy presence every passing
hour,
What but Thy grace can foil the
tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and
stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord,
abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's
little day,
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories
pass away;
Change and decay in all around I
see,
O Thou who changest not, abide
with me.

Reveal Thyself unto my closing
eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point
me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and
earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide
with me.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

As we enter the month of April we look forward expectantly to our Annual

Bible Convention. This year, we hope to have as our guest speaker Mr. Geoffrey R. King from Croydon. Mr King's name is no doubt well known to us, through his ministry at Keswick, and on convention platforms in so many parts of the world. He was pastor of the East London Tabernacle for 20 years, followed by a further 10 years' ministry at West Croydon. We pray that his visit to North Road may be fraught with great blessing.

We hope to recommence the "Drive-In" church services on Sunday, 13th May. We are thankful to God, and grateful to the authorities of our town for their helpful co-operation in this matter of granting to us the use again of the river bank car park. The fact that the Lord has placed before us this OPEN DOOR puts a very great and solemn responsibility upon us all. Let us go forward brethren and sisters unitedly, strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, to declare the Word of God. Just one word again for those of you who cannot be with us in person, do join us at 'The Throne' in this way, you too can help in the conflict, and thwart the adversary in his purpose. How we long to see signs following the preaching of the Word.