

Missions Declares that Jesus Alone Fulfilled All Scripture

Luke 24:13-49

Key verse: V32

This text would be on my short list of biblical events that, if it were possible, I would go back in time and experience first-hand. Surely, every reader of this passage has thought, “How I wish I could have been there to hear Jesus expound on the Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself.” Little could these two disciples have imagined the significance of this “chance” encounter on the road to Emmaus. They were treated to the greatest of all expositions of the Old Testament. And what was the key point Jesus wanted them to learn? He wanted them to be encouraged by understanding that His death was not a failure, but in fact the greatest of all victories. Through His death, burial and resurrection, as prophesied throughout the Old Testament, He secured victory over death and Hell for all who believe.

The statement of verse 32 is repeated in people’s hearts each time we share the Gospel with a fearful soul. It is more than the proverbial “light bulb” coming on. The truth of the Gospel is enlightening, liberating, uplifting and full of hope. Those drawn to Christ by your witness will say within themselves, “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” May each of us resolve to come along side disillusioned souls on the pathway of life to share the transforming truths of Scripture.

As believers we should also be uplifted by the principle portrayed here. There are no circumstances of life that should derail God’s children. Properly focusing on Scripture truth always redirects our attention to all we are and all we have in Christ (Eph. 1:7).

Without changing any circumstances, a proper understanding of the Old Testament transformed these disillusioned disciples into firebrands for the Gospel. May we always remember that it is not the missionary’s charisma, redemptive relationships, money or methods, but the message itself that most powerfully draws people to the Savior. The Gospel is the message of the whole Bible and Jesus is its focus. From that first promise in Genesis 3:15 that the Savior would come through the seed of the woman to the proclamation of Revelation 5:12, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing,” Scripture points men to Christ and that is the message of missions. Mission is the good news of Scripture that points to Jesus.

Dr. Kevin L. Brosnan
Field Administrator for Europe and Central Asia
Baptist World Mission