

Passion Part 2: Feeling the Heat!

Luke 24.13-36 On the evening of the resurrection two disciples were walking and talking about the current events as they made their way to nearby Emmaus. Caught up in conversation they didn't notice when another traveler, Jesus, joined them. They didn't know it was Him because their eyes were darkened with sorrow and cares. The stranger asked, "what are you talking about that has made you so sad?" And one of them answered, "Are you a stranger here that you don't know what has happened in Jerusalem these past days?" He asked, "what things?" And they answered, "of Jesus of Nazareth, a mighty prophet of God and miracle worker among the people who was condemned to death and crucified by our religious leaders, the one we believed to be the Messiah... and beside all that, this is the third day since it all unfolded and some of the gals who followed along with us came and told us that they went to His tomb early this morning and saw angels who said that He was alive... and even some of our leaders told us the tomb was empty but that they hadn't seen Him..." He interrupted them saying, "O foolish and slow of heart to believe the prophets – shouldn't the Messiah have suffered all these things to enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and walking thru all the prophets He expounded the scriptures concerning Him. By this time they were close to Emmaus and they pressed Him to stay with them saying, "it's too late for traveling..." and He went inside with them. As He sat at dinner with them He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them and their eyes were opened to see Him and He vanished from their sight! They said, "didn't our hearts burn within us when He was talking with us on the way and in the scriptures?" And they got up right then and returned to Jerusalem and found the Apostles and those who with them, and hearing their stories, they told of their own experience of knowing Him in the communion... and as they spoke, He suddenly was there with them!

The Text... *Two men in close conversation...* Hushed tones, fearing persecution... On their way to safe sanctuary... *Given boisterous declaration and joy of faith! CLEAR VOICE! Two men with eyes that couldn't see...* Shaped by the events of their day... Sorrows laid on their hearts... *Given new vision/sight of the bigger picture! CLEAR VIEW! Two men, hearts cold and sluggish, fearful and slow to comprehend what had happened...* Unafraid of the dark pathway they had just counseled the stranger to avoid... *Now on fire for him... Hearts lighting the way... CLEAR MISSION!*

And that's our jump off! *Hearts burning... because of Him! Hearts on fire!* We all know what it means to have our hearts on fire for Jesus at the beginning! Salvation is new! All lit up for Jesus! Talk about Him, God, Spirit, Bible all the time! "Jesus freak!" Proud of it! Pathos: "Passion," Zelotes: "zeal," can last a very long time... But as humans, easily distracted by other "brighter fires:" epithumeo: "lusts!"

All know what it means to "burn..." Find a "new" toy/game/hobby/ restaurant/cleaners and we are all *lit up!* It doesn't require a lot to divert us... And take over our language! (KEY) Something/someone our heart says we just have to have/keep! *Hot to overheated to burning desire/jealousy!* We all know the *heated* struggles against lust (epithumeo!)

Epithumeo an over-passion... an overarching desire, having a heart set upon something, rightful or forbidden. Doesn't always have to be a bad thing... But we all know the power of it to shut down... Our reasoning powers! God's voice! Voice of our family/friends/pastors! Clear sight of our future!

Starts wars in us/people/pastors! **James 4.1ff 1Pet 2.11 2Tim 4.3** Stands against the Spirit! **Gal5.16ff** Chokes out the word! **Mk4.19** Leads us away/astray! **2Tim 3.6** Foolish and hurtful pursuits that drown us! **1Tim6.9** Destroys our credibility! **1Tim 4.12 2.22** Conceives sin and sin delivers death! **James 1.14,15** Short-circuits prayer! **Jam 4.3** Turns us into proud mockers! **2Pet 2.18 3.3 Jude 1.16,18** Gets our eyes on worldly things; lust of the flesh, of the eyes, pride of life! **1John 2.16,17** *Supposed to be part of our past!* **E4.22 Tit 2.12 3.3 1Pet 1.14 2.11 4.2 2Pet1.4**

These over-longings our souls know all too well!

“But those that are of Christ have crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts!” Galatians 5.24

“Putting on Jesus Christ we make no provisions for the flesh to fulfill its lusts!” Romans 13.14

Ephithumeo doesn't always have to be a bad thing! Most of us know what it's like to be propelled by a desire... The strength to leap over every obstacle to get the object of our love! The creative thinking, selfless actions, delayed gratification! Even the engagement of others to help us achieve ends! Epi- thumeo: over-longings can be positive, even godly!

God has them... “I, the Lord your God, am a *jealous* God!” **Ex 20:5** “The Lord whose name is *Jealous*, is a *jealous* God!” **Ex 34:14** Loves us with such a passion, over-longing that He cannot bear other “lovers...” “I am a *jealous* God... you will not go after other gods, the gods of the people around you!” **Deut 6.14,15**

Spirit has them... Do you think there is no purpose in what the scripture teaches, that the Spirit residing in us *lusts (epi-potheo)*: intensely, craves the full possession of our hearts?” **James 4.5** Loves us with an “over-arching” passion to infill and inflate every area of our being...

Jesus certainly has them for God and us! How is it that You were looking for Me? Didn't you know that I would be doing my Father's business? **Luke 2:29** When the time was come that He should be received up, He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem... **Luke 9:51** Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith; endured the cross, setting aside the shame for the joy that was set before Him... **Hebrews 12:2**

And Paul had it, one that every pastor on earth shares with him... “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, and I want to present you as a pure virgin to Him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ...” **2Corinthians 11.2,3**

What are our over-longings? What passions do we live for? What is the source of our zeal? What are we willing to sacrifice, partner up, even die for? Are we willing to lay down our lives for the people He loves? Are we willing to die for Him? Are we in danger of our love cooling off, going cold, for Him and His kingdom? Only if we lose sight of Him in our circumstances, good or bad!