

## PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

LUKE 24: 13 – 35

After the resurrection, Jesus met two of His disciples who'd seen Him crucified, but didn't know that He'd been raised from the dead. Later, as He ate supper with them in their home, a remarkable thing happened: "Their eyes were opened... they knew Him... and they said to one another, "Did our heart not burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scripture to us?" (Luke 24: 31,32).

This passage has much to teach us about keeping the fire of love and devotion to Jesus burning in our hearts. As we walk with Him, and spend time in His presence, Jesus talks to us, and reveals Himself through the Scriptures. To keep a fire burning, it must be regularly tended, stoked and fuelled. Why do some people go on to higher heights, and deeper depths, in their walk with God, whilst others seem to go around in circles, never getting much further than they've reached before?

Perhaps because one group commits itself to pursuing God until His presence becomes a daily reality in their lives... and the other group doesn't – it's that simple. The question is, "Which group are we in?"

If we're lukewarm and half-hearted in our walk with God, today He may be saying to us, "Return to Me... and I will return to you" (Zechariah 1:3) or, in layman's terms: "Turn round and come back. You'll find Me where you left Me." And as the old saying goes, 'if it feels like God has gone, guess who moved?'

So, as we approach this Easter season, are we trying, are we really trying, to keep the fire of love for Jesus burning in our hearts, or have we become lukewarm in and half-hearted in our devotion to Him?

Some of us stay at the cross,  
Some of us wait at the tomb;  
Quickened and raised with Christ,  
Yet lingering still in the gloom.  
Some of us 'bide at the Passover feast  
With Pentecost all unknown,  
The triumphs of grace in the Heavenly place  
That our Lord has made His own.  
If the Christ who had died had stopped at the cross,  
His work had been incomplete;  
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,  
He had only known defeat.  
But the way of the cross never stops at the cross,  
and the way of the tomb leads on  
To victorious grace in the Heavenly place,  
Where the risen Lord has gone.  
*(Annie Johnson Flint)*

**The German theologian Jurgen Moltmann expresses in a single sentence the great span from Good Friday to Easter: "God weeps with us so that we may someday laugh with Him." Do we believe this? Do we really believe this?**