

From Despair



to Hope

We read in the Bible (in Luke 24.13-32) about two friends on a walk. They were downcast, confused, disappointed and fearful because of recent events. Their great friend, Jesus, had been crucified by the Romans. It seemed to them both, that the future was uncertain. They had hoped that Jesus was the man who would deliver them from the oppression of the Romans. They respected him as a great spiritual teacher. He had performed miracles and greatly helped the needy, but now their hope had been dashed.

As these two men walked together, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them. They did not recognise him in his resurrected body. How did Jesus the Lord comfort these two fearful men? He told them about himself as being the promised Messiah, God's anointed one, spoken of in the Old Testament Scriptures. They foretold that he would live a perfect life, but suffer and die for the sins of others, and then rise again from the dead. He told them that he, Jesus, is truly the one promised. He is the Son of God made man, the deliverer of all those who put their trust in him as their Saviour and Lord.

Now as they listened, the truth of this came alive in the hearts of these two friends. They had been so sad, but they told their friends afterwards the experience was like "our hearts burned within us". Hope and light

poured in and dispelled their darkness and sorrow. The answer to their fears and despair was Jesus and the truth of God's Word, the Bible.

As we enter 2021 there is hope that a vaccine will work to stem the COVID-19 pandemic, and life can return to normal. This news brings us hope. But there remains the disease of sin in our lives that a man-made vaccine cannot overcome. Rightly viewed, the current pandemic serves as God's warning of an even greater problem. We all need to consider our need to be in a right relationship with God, and for Jesus to come alongside us as our Saviour, and minister his forgiveness to us. We need to be spiritually vaccinated in our lives with his grace and the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus had finished speaking to the two friends, they asked him to come and stay with them. Jesus accepted their hospitality. When we truly and sincerely are sorry for our sin, and ask Jesus to forgive us, he enters our hearts and lives within us in the power of his Holy Spirit. Jesus himself draws near and walks with us through life. This is our greatest need. Jesus said:

**“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”** John 3.17 (NKJV Bible).

*Front cover: Picture used with permission © Pinterest*

*This leaflet is prepared and distributed by*  
*Mount Zion Baptist Church,*  
*16 Canterbury Road, Ashford, TN24 8JX*  
*[www.mountzionashford.org.uk](http://www.mountzionashford.org.uk)*

*If you would like a free Bible, please contact us by post or via our website. Also available on our website are live-streamed services, sermons to download and children's Sunday School lessons and worksheets.*

***Sunday Service times: 10.30am and 6.00pm*** (respecting Government COVID-19 guidelines for safe practice)

