

On The Road To Emmaus

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, with a mini message 'On the Road'.

Two men were walking and talking, traveling to the small town of Emmaus. They had seen the crucifixion of their leader, Jesus of Nazareth. They'd even heard strange reports of His resurrection, but they had to press on.

This Jesus had promised that where two or more gathered in His name He would be there in their midst. But now He was dead. It seemed all over. But Jesus had made a promise. And these two men were talking about Him. So He has to come on the scene.

As they talked He joined them. And they shared their sad news with Him. They didn't realise that this third man was the subject of their conversation. Then Jesus said, "You fools. You are slow to believe what the prophets said, that Christ was to suffer and then enter His glory." He began at Moses and all the prophets to show what they had missed.

But hang on a minute. Moses wrote the first five books in the Bible. Now where in any of those first five books is there a clear picture of the life, suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ? It has to be there, because Jesus Himself said it was. Does Genesis, for example, clearly talk about that sort of life? The life of Jesus? Yes, it does. And it is in what was called a type or a parable. That's when what seems a simple story but is actually prophecy. A story with a deep spiritual meaning, as well as the obvious one.

Now Moses recounts the story of Joseph in Genesis. He was loved of his father, but hated by his brothers. Joseph was a prophet, a spiritual man. His brothers couldn't stand that and they sold him for twenty pieces of silver. He was taken to Egypt, false accused and condemned to die in prison. There were two other prisoners with him. One was a baker. He was to die. But the other, a butler, would be restored to his former position with Pharaoh. As for Joseph, well, he rose from that prison to sit at the right hand of Pharaoh and rule all of Egypt.

Isn't that what happened to Jesus?

A prophet, a spiritual man, loved of the Father, but hated by His brethren the Jews. He too was sold, but for an increased amount of thirty pieces of silver. He was also falsely accused, sentenced to death with two others. One of those two would be in paradise, but the other would go to hell. And Jesus Christ rose to sit at the right hand of God.

Sometimes a Biblical person's life is more than just a story. It is a picture, a prophecy of what will be. Bible teachings and prophecy are as much in types and patterns as in any other way. These parables are hidden in the stories of the Bible. Everything in the Bible is there to teach us spiritual things. Jesus could only teach in parables, that is, earthly stories with spiritual meanings. And Jesus is God. As God wrote the Bible, and Jesus is God, then the whole Bible has to be parables.

Jesus admonished those two on the road to Emmaus because they had failed to understand God's plan through the stories, or parables, in the Bible. Could He accuse us of the same failing? Have we seen modern events clearly prophesied in, for example, the Biblical books of Ruth or Esther? Would Jesus say to us "You fools, you are so slow to believe"?