

I Need to See Some Miracles!

A good friend of mine just recently asked me how I am doing and I told him “I feel like I need to see some miracles!” I had woken up earlier that day thinking of friends who really needed to see God come through for them in miraculous ways, for healing of cancer, for a job after a long season of unemployment, for healing in marriages. I thought of personal needs in my own life, but truly felt that even seeing some movement from God on behalf of those we have long prayed for would be of great encouragement to me. I have preached to others that if you want to see miracles then you have to have problems! Well, I need to see some miracles!

This morning at church a friend of mine was preaching on the passage from Luke 24 about the disciples on the road to Emmaus. My Bible has that passage somewhat annotated, a sign that I have spoken on it myself numerous times and have pulled out the key points. There was always a verse in that passage that bothered me, a mystery left unsolved in my mind that left me feeling angry at times because of what I sensed from it; verse 16 “but they were kept from recognising Jesus”.

Thanks, Jesus. I spend a great deal of my time trying to help people recognise you and here you are working at cross purposes to what You have called me to do.

Truth is, Lord, I just don't get it. I want people to see you! And yet there are times you seem to be withholding yourself for reasons completely unclear to me!

Darren shared something this morning that helped open my eyes up to the passage in a new way. (This morning was also a reminder to me that the Scriptures are filled with meaning and wonder that sometimes remains undiscovered until the time is right for us to see it.) Darren pointed out that God sometimes does that in the Scriptures, leaves Himself unseen. David, a man after God's own heart, writes in Psalm 10 about God hiding Himself in times of trouble. And David knew trouble! But David also knew God. He extols God's personal touch with those who are hurting, His love for those who have no one else to take care of them, His rule over all the moments of our lives!

And then it hit me. Jesus was hiding Himself but was there in all of His fullness, not just observing from a distance, but walking with them along their road of hurt, pain and confusion that we call Emmaus. Jesus was not observing from a hill top, or from heaven, He was walking with them in their moments and in their journey.

Darren shared how Jesus does not coddle the two disciples at this moment when they are confused by His asking them what is going on that they are so animatedly talking about. Rather He exhorts them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe”. Not the words you necessarily want to hear at that moment, but realising that Jesus probably delivered them with a love that would not turn you off, but rather make you want to listen to what follows.

I asked myself what I would do if Jesus was standing here right now with me and said those words to me, what would He mean by them in my journey with Him right now. And please note I realised that indeed He wanted to speak those words to me!

I realised that Jesus would be referring to the fact that the Scriptures are filled with declarations of God's character, His faithfulness, love, personal involvement, power and authority. And as I was finishing that thought in my mind, I heard Darren say "and Jesus cares".

Jesus was there and He cares. Jesus is here in my moments and He cares.

Even if I do not see Him, He is here and He cares.

The next question that went through my mind was, "then Lord what is the purpose of your withholding that experiential realisation of your Presence in those tough moments?" On the road to Emmaus Jesus opened up their eyes to the Scriptures about Him. Jesus opened up the eyes to their soul to see Him, not as they once perceived Him, but in full relevance to the moments they were going through. They saw Jesus not just as they once hoped Him to be, but for whom He really is and their hearts "burned within them" (verse 32). Their understanding was expanded and with it their appreciation for Jesus and His true involvement in their moments.

I realise that it is in these times of "needing miracles" that Jesus has a great opportunity to show me deeper revelation of who He is as I walk by faith. It is during these times that He wants to reveal Himself to me in a deeper way than ever before.

And when I do not sense His presence? He is still there, walking the path with me and will reveal Himself at the right time. With the revelation will be an even greater understanding of His character and His personal care for me in meeting all of my needs.