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GoodNewsTour.com: Information about The Good News Tour, speaker information, event locations, schedules and dates.

Events & Schedules

September 21-26, 2009 — Lacombe, Alberta, Canada (*Marco Belmonte*): Canadian University College's "WISE" (Week In Spiritual Emphasis) **Contact:** Pastor Paul Antunes @ 403.782.3381 x4033

Other Beautiful Messages

(these ministries and events are not associated with HeavenlySanctuary.com)

Every Thursday, 12-1 PM — LLU Medical Student Bible Study (*Dr. Brad Cole*): See GodsCharacter.com

Every Monday, 12-1 PM — LLU Allied and Public Health Bible Study (*Dr. Brad Cole*): See GodsCharacter.com

September 12-20, 2009 — Calhoun, GA (*Ty Gibson*): See LBN.org

September 25-26, 2009 — Orland, IL (*Herb Montgomery*): See RenewedHeartMinistries.com

October 8-11, 2009 — Honolulu, HI (*Herb Montgomery*): See RenewedHeartMinistries.com

October 23-24, 2009 — Oakville, Ontario, Canada (*Dr. Greg Boyd*): See GregBoyd.org

The Good News

A NEWSLETTER ENTIRELY ABOUT GOD : ISSUE TWENTY-NINE : SEPTEMBER, TWO-THOUSAND AND NINE

the
fire
of

DISAPPOINTMENT

by *Marco Belmonte*



Can you imagine the thoughts that went through the disciples' minds when they first realized that The One who they were following was The Messiah?

Finally.... the prophecies pointing to a Deliverer from Roman oppression were starting to make sense and it was becoming very apparent that Jesus Christ had the power and majesty to decimate any Jewish enemies that stood in His way. Oh how long those twelve young men had waited for a day when they could be unshackled from the tyranny of the Roman garrisons that constantly reminded Israel of its own fall from greatness.

The days of the great patriarchs had long since passed away and the dominant kings of Judah had become bedtime stories. And yet, here stood The Son of Man, as foretold by Daniel the prophet, in their very midst.

They watched Him take jugs of water and recreate that water into divine wine. "We now have a king who can quench the thirst of our people as we rise up and fight the Gentile sinners!" They watched with keen interest as Jesus amazingly fed thousands of people until they had their fill, and still had baskets of food leftover. "The Israelite Army will never go hungry and our soldiers will be nourished with the finest food!" Those young apostles possibly glanced at each other with smirks on their

faces as newly discovered invigoration pulsated through their veins.

But the most powerful and convincing display of preeminence and supremacy manifested itself to those fledgling students when they heard The God-Man Jesus Christ lift His head to Heaven, crying out, "Lazarus! Arise!" Can you see the brain patterns bouncing through the heads of Peter, Matthew and Judas as it hits them that even if they were to fall in battle against their enemies they would be raised up from the dead to fight again? A feeling of power probably overtook them and possibly the arguments about who was going to be number one alongside Christ broke out yet again.

As Christ rode into Jerusalem atop a mule; as adoring people shouted praises to The King and waved palm branches in celebration; as the splendor of the Temple Mount glistened in the foreground, and the prophecies of Israel's restoration were about to unfold, the disciples felt they were moments away from being the greatest benefactors in human history.

And then The Lord in human form was tortured and murdered on a cross!

If a person wants to know what is important in life they often discover it after an incredible disappointment. It is during the

a newsletter **entirely** about God

MINISTRY NEWS



One of the things that we have always tried to do as a ministry is not ask for financial support. It is true, we really can't operate without it, and we've

been grateful for all the support we've gotten over the years from so many of you.

"No guilt and all content" - something we've put a lot of focus on. That's a serious commitment - especially for a religious non-profit organization that can't survive without the help of its supporters. Through God's grace we've maintained our ministry by trusting that He'd help us continue what we believe is the most vitally important work that can be done - to evangelize the truth about His loving character in the midst of so many misconceptions. But it is a form of pride if we are unwilling to be transparent and ask for help when it is needed in that it limits His ability to work through others.

It is true, we will continue to only ask when it is a necessity because anything else would be dishonest - but from this moment on - we pledge to be more vulnerable (letting people know we need help) in all that we do.

We plan to unveil many of our "next step" plans in October's newsletter - including an invitation from us to everyone out there that is passionate about the character of God's love to join us in building community and becoming more involved in our organization.

Our budget every month is close to \$2,000. It doesn't sound like that much when put into the context of an organization, but it is a lot when there is no buffer between each month that our budget must be met. Donations can be made online or by mail at: **HeavenlySanctuary.com, PO Box 4, Redlands, CA, 92373.**

So, "no guilt and all content?" We sure hope so. Once again, we thank you for your continued support and care. Love to all!

- The HeavenlySanctuary.com Team

[CONTINUED FROM FRONT] hardships, pain, and the accompanying feelings of doubt and despair that we humans sometimes have those self-revelatory epiphanies that cause huge flashing neon signs to pop up in inside our heads, listing everything that really matters.

And aren't these vital questions for Christians: What is important? How do we find the passion that allows us to roll out of bed in the morning, despite our surroundings, and have our thoughts so elevated that the physical and temporal things pale. What insights suddenly changed a group of twelve men from different social backgrounds to change from asking the question "who will be number one" to men willing to die for others?

It is difficult to envision the hopelessness that must have enveloped the disciples as they experienced the radical shift from walking into Jerusalem with spectators pronouncing Christ as The King of Israel - to actually seeing The King of Israel being stripped naked and stuck up on a cross. The emotional and psychological effects of such a drastic change in expectations probably did more damage than any type of physical trial could ever have accomplished. In one short time period those twelve men went from "hey, look at us -we're going be administrators in a new kingdom that is run by our good friend here - maybe you've heard of Him? - the Son of God" - to a very different group that was probably whispering, "Peter! Keep your mouth shut, man - and stop peeping out the window - your head is so big any Roman soldier will spot it." What a scene to behold - the epitome of broken dreams created in the minds of men who quest for power, might and control.

As hours turned into days, a few of Christ's devoted followers found themselves on a rocky and crooked road. Traveling by the dangerous light of day these two men discussed the pain and confusion of recent events. How could it be that Jesus performed such powerful acts, even bringing people back from the dead and walking on water? How could He allow Himself to be murdered? The scriptures that were read in the temple every Sabbath made it clear that a Savior would come, crush the enemies of Israel, elevate His people to almost god-like status and reign forever. At least that's what the people thought and what was thought as truth ultimately was taught as truth.

The consequences of this kind of mentality have been engraved in the confines of history forever as the whole universe witnessed God's professed followers persecute and execute the God who they claimed to be waiting for. No one saw it coming and as these two despondent disciples pushed forward in spiritual perplexity, praying that they would not be discovered, suddenly, as if the wind itself had taken form and put on a cloak, a hooded stranger appeared beside them. *"Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him."* (Luke 24:27, The Message)

The Bible reveals the evidence of how God decided to handle rebellion in His universe and just like Jesus Christ ripped down the veil that had been

blocking the entrance into the most holy place and the presence of God, another curtain between the minds of those two disciples on The Road to Emmaus was about to be shredded through an intelligent and simple comprehension of the scriptures. And what were the results? Check it out: *"As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; but they held him back, saying, "Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark." So he went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?""* (Luke 24:28-32, GNT) This is what meeting God on our own personal Road to Emmaus will cause each one of us to experience as we realize the hooded figure walking beside us during our most disappointing times wants nothing more then to invite us into His arms of love.

One of my favorite verses in The Bible is also one which is often misquoted. You've all heard this passage of scripture found in 1 Corinthians 2:9. It reads: *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* But as many times as I've heard that verse used to comfort someone during a time of great despondency, look at what the very next verse says: *"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God."* (1st Corinthians 2:10)

What we all seek is found in the trials and hardships of life that provoke us to seriously question what it is we believe.

The fire of disappointment only bears fruit when it is cold - when it is lonely. But be of good cheer for a hooded figure can be seen joining us as we travel down the path of life.

As He lifts the veil from The Bible, opens our minds to the truth about God's goodness and character, and causes us to thirst for the evidence encased within the pages of God's Word, we will suddenly become conscious of the fact that The One who is walking with us is none other than the Son of God in human form.

Will we not stand up and exclaim with new invigoration,
"Wasn't it like a fire burning in us?"

[END]

NOTE: If you'd like to listen to the presentation this article was adapted from, please visit HeavenlySanctuary.com and peruse our audio section or send an email to marco@heavenlysanctuary.com.

