



EMMAUS - - - - - ALL THE TIME!

Whenever our Blessed Lord spoke to His disciples of His sufferings and death, He met with misunderstanding. They would not - - - they could not - - - accept His warnings. Nothing could dispel the notion they had formed of the future Messiah. To them, as for all the Jews, the Messiah was to be a radiant figure of earthly splendor. The Messiah was to be girt with the golden robes of worldly grandeur. He was to be cloaked with sovereign might. Certainly, their Messiah would not be born in a dingy stable. He would be brought into this world in a palace fitting his rank and dignity. Surely their Messiah would not come out of Nazareth! Nothing good comes from Nazareth. The disciples could make nothing of a crucified world-redeemer! They tried to prevent Christ from going up to Jerusalem to die. Such a fate spelled the end of their hopes and expectations in this world. That they were disciples, close followers of the Master Teacher, did not mean they did not have serious ideas concerning their future achievements and welfare. They indulged in dreams of holding places of superior rank and positions of honor, secured for them in Christ's future Messianic Kingdom. So, after all, it was no pure idealism that led them to abandon house and home, wife and children, ship and business! "Behold we have left all things and have followed thee: what therefore shall we have?"

It would appear that Judas, the traitor, with the cunning of the children of this world, was the first to "see through" our Lord. It was evident to Judas that for anyone who walked in the company of Jesus, the Christ, there would be no glory. He detected no path that would lead to some future power or wealth. He saw no hope. All that Judas could see in the Master was the cross, suffering and death. When a suitable occasion offered itself he deserted and betrayed the Son of Man. As for the others, even the events of Easter left them still half incredulous of Christ's real mission. "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom of Israel?" That seems to have been the last question they put to Jesus on Earth.

The very limited vision of the followers of Christ was demonstrated when He met up with two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus. They understood and had seen how powerful their Master was in word and work — before God and man. They had no thought of denying His worth. They admired His miracles. But this did not suffice to maintain them in loyalty to Him. They had hoped Christ would restore Israel's earthly domination. All of that was shattered now, and everybody knew it. Everybody was talking about it. And they departed in shame and confusion. They refused to believe even the message of His resurrection brought by the pious women. The only