

The Living Word

Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Ron Prorise
April 12, 2009
Shepherd's Community Church

Despondent Spirits (13-24)

(Luke 10:22; Matthew 16:21, 17:23, 20:19, 27:63; Psalm 119:130)

Opened Eyes (25-27)

(Acts 20:27; Genesis 3:15; 21; Psalm 41:9; 22:1, 8, 16, 18; John 13:18; Zechariah 11:12; 12:10; Isaiah 53:5, 10)

Burning Hearts (28-35)

(Matthew 5:6;)

Excerpts from The Diary of David Brainerd

April 2, 1742. In the afternoon I felt, in secret prayer, much resigned, calm and serene. What are all the storms of this lower world if Jesus, by his Spirit, does but come walking on the seas!

Lord's day, April 4. My heart was wandering and lifeless. In the evening God gave me faith in prayer, made my soul melt in some measure, and gave me to taste a divine sweetness. Oh! my blessed God! Let me climb up near to him, and love, and long, and plead, and wrestle, and stretch after him, and for deliverance from the body of sin and death. Alas! my soul mourned to think I should ever lose sight of its beloved again. "O come, Lord Jesus, Amen.

April 6. I walked out this morning; had an affecting sense of my own vileness; and cried to God to cleanse me, to give me repentance and pardon. I then began to find it sweet to pray; and could think of undergoing the greatest sufferings in the cause of Christ, with pleasure; and found myself willing, if God should so order it, to suffer banishment from my native land, among the heathen, that I might do something for their salvation, in distress and deaths of any kind. Then God gave me to wrestle earnestly for others, for the kingdom of Christ in the world, and for dear Christian friends.

April 8. Had raised hopes to-day respecting the heathen. Of that God would bring in great numbers of them to Jesus Christ! I cannot but hope that I shall see that glorious day. Everything in this world seems exceeding vile and little to me: I appear so to myself. I had some little dawn of comfort to-day in prayer; but especially to-night, I think I had some faith and power of intercession with God. I was enabled to plead with God for the growth of grace in myself; and many of the dear children of God then lay with weight upon my soul. Blessed be the Lord! It is good to wrestle for divine blessings.

April 9. Most of my time in morning devotion was spent without sensible sweetness; yet I had one delightful prospect of arriving at the heavenly world. I am more amazed than ever at such thoughts; for I see myself infinitely vile and unworthy. No poor creature stands in need of divine grace more than I, and none abuse it more than I have done, and still do.

David Brainerd (1718-1747) was a missionary to the Native Americans, who prayed that he might be a flame of fire for God. He led many to faith in Christ in his brief four year ministry, and died at the age of 29. Jonathan Edwards preached his funeral and published his diary. Someone once asked, "What can be done to revive the work of God where it has decayed?" John Wesley answered, "Let every preacher read carefully the life of David Brainerd." Those were inspired by Brainerd's life include William Carey Henry Martyn, Robert Murray McCheyne, David Livingston, Andrew Murray and Jim Elliot.

The Life and Diary of David Brainerd: www.wilderness-cry.net/bible_study/bios/brainerd