

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
15 Park Row, Rooms 411, 412
New York 7, N. Y.

BIBLE MESSAGES
Broadcast over A.B.C.
11.15 a.m. E.S.T.
March 23, 1946

BIBLE MESSAGE

JESUS CHRIST, THE RISEN VICTOR

By the Rev. Allan A. MacRae, D.D.

Philippians 3:10 - "That I may know...the power of His resurrection."

One day about nineteen hundred years ago two men were on their way from Jerusalem to a little village called Emmaus. Their faces were sad, for they had just suffered a most grievous disappointment. Their beloved Teacher, who they had thought would prove to be the expected Messiah -- the One who would redeem their nation from all its trouble -- had been seized and crucified. As they walked along, they constantly recalled things He had done or said. How they had enjoyed hearing His wonderful teaching, and observing His spotless and yet thoroughly human character! They had expected that He would eventually gather a great multitude of the people, and drive out the oppressors. Then He would set up His kingdom of perfect righteousness, and all the troubles of their nation would be at an end.

These hopes had been suddenly wrecked. Their great Master had suffered a cruel and humiliating death. As they walked and talked together a stranger drew near and walked with them. It was the risen Lord, but they did not recognize Him. Their eyes were turned inward and downward. He asked them, "What is it that you are talking about so earnestly?" One of them, whose name was Cleophas, answered: "Are you a stranger in Jerusalem? Haven't you heard the important things that have occurred lately?" He replied, "What things?" They said, "About Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in word and deed. We thought that it was He who would redeem Israel but He was taken by cruel hands and crucified. This is the third day now since these things happened. Some women told us a story this morning about going to the sepulchre and not finding His body but instead seeing a vision of angels, who said He was alive again. What a fantastic story it was! The women were overcome by the hysteria of their grief or they would not imagine such things. It is impossible for a body once dead and buried to rise again."

The stranger turned to them with a voice full of sympathy and tenderness, and said: "O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to have entered into His glory?" Then He began with the book of Genesis and went through the Old Testament, pointing out to them the outlines of its wonderful picture of the coming Messiah. He showed them that there were two phases of His character. One was that of a conquering king who would establish absolute righteousness and peace in the earth. The other, however, was the picture of One who would suffer and would take upon Himself the sins of those who would believe on His Name.

As the men listened to the stranger their hearts burned within them. They could not but feel that the words He said were true. The Scripture passages which He quoted and the evidence which He drew from the Old Testament was accurate. It all fit together, giving a wonderful picture of One who was to come into the world that He might die as a ransom for many; and then be raised from the dead as proof that God had accepted His sacrifice.

When they came to Emmaus, He acted as if He would walk farther but they stopped Him and asked if He would not stay with them, since the day was nearing