

Difficulties in
Understanding
the
Transitional
Teachings of
Jesus

Scripture Reading:

Luke 24:13-27

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the Biblically revealed transitions in God's program, from Israel to the Church, and from law to grace, requires maturity. Maturity takes time (Heb 6:1).

The believers during Jesus' earthly life and ministry required time in order to mature in their understanding of the transitional teachings of Jesus.

Their Difficulty in Understanding John 6:24-29

- “Believe” is used 5x in this chapter
 - 2x they were told to believe on Him
 - Jn 6:29-30; cf 8:24
 - 2x they did not believe
 - Jn 6:36, 64
 - 1x Peter said on behalf of the Eleven that they did believe
 - Jn 6:69; cf Matt 16:16-17

Their Difficulty in Understanding John 6:24-29

(continued)

- Because of the unbelief by many of His disciples (learners), Jesus purposefully offends and confuses them by telling them to “eat my flesh and drink my blood”
 - Jn 6:53-57; cf 6:63
- Many of His disciples did not understand His message and stopped walking with Him
 - Jn 6:60,66
- Even the Eleven apostles do not fully understand what He meant about “eating His flesh and drinking His blood”
 - Jn 6:67-69

Their Difficulty in Understanding

- His coming death and resurrection
 - Lk 9:44-45, 18:31-34
 - “Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.” But they:
 - did not understand this saying, and
 - it was hidden from them so that
 - they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying”

Their Difficulty in Understanding the “Upper Room Discourse” of John 13-16

- Jn 16:12

- **“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.”**

Their Difficulty in Understanding of the Two on the Emmaus Road

- Lk 24:26-27
 - “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself”

Their Difficulty in Understanding the Building of Christ's Church

- Matt 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...”
 - Secular use of the word “church” - Acts 19:41
 - “Church” pertaining to Israel - Acts 7:38
 - The church which is the Body of Christ - Eph 1:22,23, Col 1:18
 - Produced by Holy Spirit baptism - I Cor 12:12-13
 - The result: three divinely recognized divisions of humanity - I Cor 10:31, cf I Pet 2:9 (Jews, Gentiles, Church of God)
The church is a new race

CONCLUSION

- Throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus, He taught many things that were not clearly understood by those who were believers.
- This was also true of the things He said about:
 - The bread, representing His body, and
 - The cup, representing the new covenant.
- These two elements pictured truth that :
 - Had not yet come to pass
 - Were not understood that night