

## Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November Andrew Baddeley

### Let your hearts burn

Good morning, everyone, hope you're well this morning, Monday morning, the end of November. God bless you this morning.

I've been just praying and been really stirred this last week, particularly with Wes for what he shared with us last Wednesday. And I don't know about you, but my heart was so stirred with, just wanting to burn for Him, just wanting to run after the fire, wanting to run after Jesus more than anything. And I was just reminded, there are some times when you hear someone from outside, it jogs your memory and recalibrates you sometimes. And one of the prayers that I've always prayed periodically is that Lord that you would burn in my heart, that I would actually have a passion for you, that you would stir up a holy passion in my heart, that there would be hunger that burns in my heart for Jesus, and for nothing else. And I feel like I'm going through that season again now, Lord, whatever happens, whatever else is out there, whatever trials and tribulations that we face, let us burn for you, let us be the burning ones that you find in your house. And like all of us, we all have to make adjustments sometimes in our lives, when we realise we're not quite burning for Him, we're not quite giving everything we've got for Him, and we're not finding His presence and all these things happen. And one thing I love about this season is having a log burner, and we've got a log burner in our house and those of you who've got log burners, have got fires at home, you will know that cannot start a log burner, you cannot light the fire in your house, unless the fire is set right. So you have to clear out the grate, you have to clear out all the debris from the old fire, you have to make sure that you've got the right wood to start the fire, having the kindling, having the small bits of wood and having the fire lighting equipment. Otherwise, you could just spend the whole night trying to light the fire, and it never actually goes and it's so frustrating having to light the fire when you know you're so desperate to have some warmth and so desperate to have the fire going but it doesn't actually light because you haven't got it set up right. But as soon as you have the fire set right, then the flames burn and you've got this really lovely fire for the whole evening or however long you want the fire to go.

And it's a bit like that with us. You know, if we've got our heart set right, if we've got ourselves positioned for Him, then just let the Father come and just burn you up. Just let Him come and pour out His Holy Spirit in your heart and, you know, He captivates our hearts. And it's like, we just have to make those right, we have to set the fire correctly and to set everything else around us and then just let Him come and consume it with His holy fire. There's a scripture that I often read actually, it's in revelations chapter 3, in fact, Wes quoted it on Wednesday night, it's talking to the church in Sardis. And there's this one line where He says, 'wake up, strengthen what remains and is about to die'. And it seems like quite a harsh scripture but there's also that scripture where it says about David when he was set against complete adversity, when he was set against really hard times, he strengthened himself in the Lord. And there is something about strengthening ourselves in the Lord and where we're feeling like we're weak and we're dying, it's taking out those things in the fire that are causing us not to burn for Him. Just making those adjustments, whatever it may be, whether you've got crowded out with busyness, whether you've got crowded out with stuff that's come in your life that's maybe not helpful, maybe there's a compromise, whatever it may be, you know what those things are. And we don't need to tell each other and point the finger do we, really it's between us and God, we know what it's like. It's hungering after Him isn't it; it's praying my prayer is Lord, that You would stir up the hunger for Him in this season, that He would stir up His burning ones.

And I just want to take a few notes from a story found in Luke chapter 24; I'm not going to read the whole story because we haven't got time this morning. But it's about the two who are on the road to Emmaus. I love this story because it talks about, you know, I feel like there's a reality with this story, I feel like I can identify with these guys who walked away from being with Jesus. You know, they walked away from hanging out with Jesus, hanging on to the promises, they thought that He was the Messiah. They thought that He was the one and they saw Him crucified, they saw Him hanging on a tree and they didn't understand the bigger picture. They didn't understand what was going on. So they were walking on this road. This seven mile journey and Jesus pitches up and He starts to listen to them. And He starts to hear

what they have to say. And it says of them that their faces were downcast and they were not understanding, that they were feeling low, not understanding the situation that they've just faced, if you like, they were disappointed. You know we've talked a lot about disappointment recently, their hearts were disappointed. And it says this one line which I really love, it says that 'we had hoped that He was the one who would redeem Israel'. And have you hoped in something that hasn't come to pass, maybe you're feeling disappointed or feeling a bit downcast this morning or this week and thinking, oh, gosh, is it? You know, are we ever actually going to push through this virus or, are we going to see the things that have been promised, come through in my life, and Jesus started to explain and talk about the scriptures and He gave them a little rebuke didn't He, He said, 'How foolish and slow of heart that you are'. But He basically went through the Scriptures and started talking to them and explaining what had happened. And then we get to the end of that section of the story and they broke bread together around the table, they persuaded Him to come with them and eat together, and they broke bread. And then, as they broke bread, Jesus revealed himself to them as the Lord. And then there's this one line, which I really want to just hang on a bit this morning. And it says, 'Were our hearts not burning in us, when He talked to us, and opened up the scriptures. Were our hearts not burning in us when He talked to us and when He opened up the scriptures'. And I want to suggest to you this morning, some habits that are really good, and these things helped me.

I know that if I'm finding that I'm bit disappointed, that my hope is down that I'm feeling despondent, that I'm not able to press in, or in fact, just feeling lukewarm. I'm not feeling the presence of God, I'm not burning like I used to burn or I'm not pressing into the things that I used to press into. And there's the four basic elements that I give myself to and this is what they are: worship, giving myself, just putting on some worship music, listening to some worship; obviously, we can't go to worship sets at the moment, but just worshipping God, there's certain people that get me there, you know what I mean? There's so much worship on the Internet at the moment that people are really carrying the presence of God, so just give yourself to worship. And then the second one is to prayer, you know, just pressing into times of prayer, having extended times of prayer, where you're pressing into Him, you're pressing into just the things that you need to press into. And it's just even starting off with just thanking God, you've been going through times of Thanksgiving, pressing into the word, reading the Word of God, giving yourself to reading the Word; the Word of God is the light to our path, that He is the word of God. And it's funny, isn't it, that as you read the Word of God, how it comes alive, and I love how the word comes alive, as we read it and finally there are times of fellowship, just getting together with other believers.

Or for me, my testimony is just last week, listening to Wes really stirred my heart and I identified with these two, who were walking on the road on the way to Emmaus and their hearts burned, as the scriptures were explained. As we were listening to Wes he was talking about, he was overflowing with his passion, and talking about the Word of God and talking about what was going on and I felt my heart really burning and thinking God, yeah, it's like, as we position ourselves in, sometimes, in any of these areas, how our hearts get captivated and how our hearts burn.

And it may be any of these things, or maybe a combination of these things. It says in Hebrews doesn't it, that to strip off everything that hinders you, and run the race with perseverance. So what are those things that you know, on your mind and your heart that's hindering you this morning? It may be devices, I remember Paul Wakely was saying last week about giving yourself a day off from devices and I did that last week, not completely I must say, I gave myself mostly to having a day off from listening to devices, or having my device in front of me; my phone primarily. And you know what, I felt so cleansed actually, because I use my phone for everything I do. I spend a lot of my time on the phone or messages or whatever, just for part of the work that I do here at Father's house, but I felt so washed and I felt so cleansed and I felt, Oh gosh, it was almost like, it gave me a bit of breathing space. And I felt, I'm going to try and make this a habit, that I do this regularly and, and just spend some time out, some Sabbath time, if you like, away from distractions, away from being distracted from Him. But it's allowing, positioning yourself in places where God can just come and burn you, He can come and you just let your heart burn for Him, stirring up your heart with passion for Jesus.

You know, it says in Jeremiah doesn't it, I love this scripture, it says that you have this fire in your bones, and it's trapped. And for everyone, I want to just encourage you this morning, and say that each one of you has a fire in your bones. You know, you may not feel it sometimes, or you may be really burning for Jesus this morning. But you have a fire in your bones, we just need to position ourselves and just let the Lord come and just release that fire in us. I love this scripture in the New Testament it says that a bruised reed He will not break, a smouldering wick He will not snuff out. He will never let you go. He will never let you go. Sometimes when you get to your fire and it's smouldering, if you've got a log burner or fire at home and then you want to light it the next day, sometimes you get these little smouldering ashes there in the bottom and it just takes a little bit of kindling or dry wood to get the fire going back up again. And it's like that isn't it in our in our lives, that it just takes a little bit just to spark us up. Whether it's listening to a testimony, whether it's listening to someone preach or whether it's just worshipping Him or getting on our knees or putting some stuff down that we know is entangling us in our journey, and just setting our faces before Him. And just letting the Holy Spirit come and just burn our hearts again this morning. And I really feel this time that He's after burning hearts and He's wanting His burning ones, He's needing His burning ones to burn brighter than ever in this season.

So I want to pray for you today. I want to pray for myself as well. And I want to pray that in this season that that we would burn more than ever for Him in this time. So Father, I want to pray that Lord as those guys went on that road to Emmaus Father, the scriptures were explained to them and their hearts burned with fire. I want to pray, Lord Jesus, that you would come and burn our hearts this morning; that you would come and burn us you would set us on fire for you God, that you are set on fire to run after you more than ever before. Lord God, I want to pray that if there's anything holding us back I pray that you'll give us the grace to, I'm just reminded that Caroline said yesterday there's a season of grace to find Him in this time. And I pray Father that we would have that grace to put stuff down, to put things away that are hindering us and to find you in a new way. And Father I pray Lord God that you would stir our hearts to go and run after you more than we've ever run before. Lord God I pray that you would set us on fire Lord God and others will be able to watch us burn. Father God, I pray that you release your burning ones in this time. Father God, that you set me on fire. You'll set such a hunger on your people, on fire in the name of Jesus. Oh, God, just stir us up, Lord for you, stir us up this morning as we start this week. Oh God, we give you our hearts. We give you our minds. And Father, we just say thank you, Lord, thank you God, that you love us and that you draw us close to you in this time. So we bless you, Father, and we just bless everyone today as you're watching, and we just say thank you, Lord Jesus, for your presence, for sending us your presence, in Jesus' name.

God bless you. Have a great week.



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