

Good morning! Many years ago I bought a book by Henrietta Mears, entitled, What the Bible is All About. Henrietta Mears, by the way, was a significant influence on Christianity in the 20th Century. When she began teaching Sunday school at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, California she had a class of 400. Sounds big, right? Within two years Sunday school attendance at was averaging more than 4,200 per week, with as many as 6500. Miss Mears' teaching profoundly impacted the ministries of Bill Bright (Campus Crusade), Jim Rayburn (Young Life) and Billy Graham. What the Bible is All About is a classic work and I recommend it, having used it myself for years. It provides an overview and summary of every book of the Bible. So what *is* the Bible all about anyway? This might sound like a huge question, but the answer is really simple. For the answer, let's read today's passage together:

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 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.

### **Luke 24:26-27**

Here is the context of today's passage: Two disciples of Jesus were walking along on a road and a stranger joined them. He asked why they were so sad and they told him all about the recent events surrounding Jesus of Nazareth, how Jesus had been a great Prophet, how he was crucified. They had been hoping that Jesus would free Israel from Roman rule. There had even been rumors that He had risen from the dead but it appeared at that point that all was lost. They were disappointed. Well, wouldn't *you* be disappointed too? His response is found in today's passage. Let's read it together: "*O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 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.* There it is: The Bible is about Jesus! From beginning to end, from Genesis to Maps, the Bible is primarily and essentially about Jesus, the Word of God. (By the way, this is one of the few examples of Jesus doing what we call "expository preaching".) His message was not "Be like Me." The "Be like Jesus," message might be popular but, on its own, it is not very good news. Why? Because it's impossible! The real message is God's finished work through Christ. If we tell people to be more like Jesus instead of the Good News that *we can receive His grace despite our not being able to be like Jesus*, we become like Pharisees, more concerned with "Christian" activity than the grace and mercy available to us only in Jesus Christ. This morning, take a moment to thank Jesus for what He has done. It's not what you do for Jesus that matters most...it's what Jesus has done for you!