

## FIXING A NO HEAT PROBLEM

Last week's temperatures were so warm we did not need to have our furnace on. Temperatures must have dropped overnight on Thursday because when I woke up on Friday morning and came downstairs it was really chilly inside. I went to put the thermostat on and discovered it kept clicking on and off before the furnace could stay on any length of time.

I wondered initially if the thermostat needed new batteries. After replacing the batteries, I turned the thermostat back on and discovered it was still clicking on and off before the furnace could run for any length of time. I called a heating company to arrange for them to come and see if the problem was with the thermostat or with a part on the furnace. Unfortunately, they could not come on that Friday, so we arranged for an appointment on Monday morning.

By Friday afternoon, the furnace would not come on at all so we had no heat. On Friday night the house was getting pretty cold, so we turned on our electric fireplace and covered ourselves with blankets in order to stay somewhat warm. By Saturday morning it was so cold inside our house that we had to double and triple layer our clothes in order to stay warm. The coldness inside must have played with my emotions because cheap and frugal me opened my wallet and bought a small portable heater to try and warm up the house a little. Sunday was not much better when it came to the temperature in our house. When we arrived home after church the thermostat read 16 degrees, but it sure felt a lot colder. All I could think about while snuggling under a blanket to stay warm on Sunday was how much I was looking forward to Monday morning and having our furnace fixed.

Finally, Monday morning came, and the service technician arrived. After some troubleshooting, he confirmed that the problem had to do with the thermostat and not a part on the furnace. By 9:15 a.m. we finally had our furnace working after three days without any heat. It is so nice to feel warmth coming from my registers again as opposed to rubbing my hands together to try and stay warm.

This problem with needing the thermostat in our house replaced so that we could have warmth again got me thinking about a story when two followers of Jesus needed a service call to raise the flame in their hearts. In **Luke 24** we

come across the story of how two of Jesus' followers started to have their hearts cool off because they felt their hopes in Him being the Messiah had flamed out after His death on the cross. As the temperature in their hearts began to lower, these two followers experienced sadness, disappointment, and a loss of hope. This decline in temperature in their hearts even had these followers doubt the news being spread on that Sunday morning that Jesus had risen.

As these two men were walking back home toward Emmaus, Jesus suddenly came along side, but His identity was hidden from them. As they walked along, Jesus began to explain to them the various writings of Scripture that referred to Him as the Messiah. When they arrived in Emmaus these two men invited Jesus to join them and spend the night. When they sat down to eat Jesus took the bread and blessed it. It was at this moment when Jesus' true identity was no longer hidden from these two men.

After Jesus departed, they said to one another: ***Didn't our hearts burn within us as He talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us? (Luke 24:32)*** These followers received a service call from Jesus Himself to have the thermostats turned back on in their hearts so they could once again place their hopes and belief in Him. It is interesting to note that the approach Jesus used to turn the temperature back up in their hearts was to walk them through the truths and promises of Scripture and to spend time with them.

These two things helped those followers once again have their hearts burn with a passion for Jesus again. Perhaps various losses and disappointments in our lives have caused our hearts to lose the warmth and love we once had for Jesus. If that is the case, then let's raise the temperature in our hearts again when it comes to Jesus by digging deeper into the truths of Scripture and taking time to walk with Him so we will discover that burning feeling inside of us again.

***Keep safe and God bless,***

***Pastor Dean***