

Luke 24:13-24 NIV

“He has risen”

“Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ⁽¹⁴⁾ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

“(15) As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ⁽¹⁶⁾ but they were kept from recognizing him.

“(17) He asked them, ‘What are you discussing together as you walk along?’ They stood still, their faces downcast. ⁽¹⁸⁾ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, ‘Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?’

“(19) ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘About Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied. ‘He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ⁽²⁰⁾ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ⁽²¹⁾ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ⁽²²⁾ In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this

morning ⁽²³⁾ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ⁽²⁴⁾ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.’”



The road to Emmaus
bereanserching.com

Unwavering belief in Jesus' resurrection gives us power, stability, and happiness.

- **I have no exceptional gifts.**
- **No special insights.**

Yet I am certain that during the past week, something occurred that really disturbed you.

That incident confused you; bothered you.

You possibly doubted God's loving control.

Am I right?

Every day, things happen we don't understand.

There's an old story about a man who walked into a restaurant with an ostrich behind him. When he sat, the waitress went over and asked for their order. The man said, "I'll have a hamburger, fries and a soda," and turned to the ostrich: **"What's yours?"**

"I'll have the same," said the ostrich.

A short time later the waitress returned with the order. **"That will be \$15.43 please."**

The man reached into his pocket and pulled out exact change for payment.

The next day, the fellow and ostrich came again.

The man said, "I'll have a hamburger, fries, and a soda," and the ostrich said, "I'll have the same." Once more, the fellow reached into his pocket and paid with the exact change.

This became a routine, but late one evening; the two entered. **"The usual?"** asked the waitress. "No, this is Friday night, so I will have a steak, baked potato, and salad," said the man.

"Same for me," said the ostrich.

A short time later the waitress came with the order and said, **"That will be \$28.62."** Once again, the man pulled exact change out of his pocket and placed it on the table.

The waitress couldn't hold her curiosity any longer. **"Excuse me, sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?"**

"Well," said the man, "several years ago I was cleaning the attic and I found an old lamp. When I rubbed it, a genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay

for anything, I could just put my hand in my pocket, and the right amount of money would always be there. "

"That's brilliant!" said the waitress. **"Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!"** "That's right! Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there," said the man.

The waitress was still puzzled and asked,

"One other thing, sir, what's with the ostrich?"

The man shook his head a little and replied,

"Well, my second wish was for a chick with long legs."



Ostrich pic from
www.britannica.com

Life can be unpredictable and disappointing at times, can't it?

Today we'll look at a true story about two guys, who were confused by Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

They made a mistake most of us make.

By looking at the facts, we can see how to avoid their gaffe.

On Jesus' resurrection day, two men who'd been close to Jesus walked west from Jerusalem.

Their destination was a village called Emmaus, about seven miles away.

They felt deep sadness.

They'd heard reports of Jesus' resurrection, yet they were depressed.

The two guys resembled a couple of college students who bet a lot of money on their school's basketball championship.

In order to see that final game the two maxed-out their credit cards to pay scalper prices.

The team "let them down."

In similar fashion, the two guys walking to Emmaus probably muttered to each other that's it's a cruel, disappointing world.

Suddenly a stranger started walking with them.

That wasn't unusual in those days.

Most people walked then.

You and I know that the man joining them was Jesus.

Considering their sadness, the two probably didn't even look up or make eye contact.

The text says: "Faces downcast."

Sad people tend to look down, don't they?

The stranger asked what they were talking about.

He already knew of course.

The question wasn't that unusual.

We hear conversational queries such as:

"What's Congress or the governor done today to raise taxes?"

In those days it would have been:

"Has Caesar come up with another new tax?"

Or "Whom did the Romans crucify now?"

The two guys froze in their tracks. "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

It's like: "Everyone in Jerusalem knows what happened. Where have you been?"

Have you ever thought that you really understood someone?

Then you saw that person under pressure and realized that his or her heart was not what you thought.

Once during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln wanted to inspect Union Army defenses at Fort Stevens near Washington D.C. The commanding general assigned his aide, Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. to guide President Lincoln. The fort was under siege at the time. When Captain Holmes was showing the President enemy trenches, Lincoln wore his customary tall hat.

He stood for a better view. “Just then a crackle of fire came from Confederate lines.

‘Get down, you fool!’ shouted Holmes, pulling the President under cover. Captain Holmes “then realized what he had said, and worried about possible disciplinary action.

But when Lincoln left, he only commented,

“Goodbye, Captain Holmes. I am pleased to see that you know how to talk to a civilian.”¹



Lincoln pic
malevus.com

Captain Oliver
Wendell
Holmes, Jr.
antientam.aotw.org



Other presidents might not have been as tolerant of a young officer being his true self.

When the stranger (Jesus) asked the two men, “What things?” they revealed their hopes.

The scene is almost comical.

I think that Luke probably smiled when he wrote what the two said?

They start talking about Jesus of Nazareth:
“He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.”

The Greek word for “powerful” was the word from which we get the term “dynamite.”

Most people want leaders who get things done—who not only talk strongly, but act briskly.

The two guys’ ambitions centered on Jesus’ power. “We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.”

They saw Jesus as one who would free their country from oppressive rule by foreigners.

As did most Jews of the time, they wanted freedom from Roman rule.

They hated seeing Caesar’s troops on their roads and in their towns.

Jesus, the prophet they thought so powerful, was sentenced to death and crucified.

A Sunday school teacher told her class about the crucifixion. She did her best to be realistic.

¹ *The Ultimate Reference Book*, Lance Davis, Avon Books, New York p -299

In fact, the horrifying details came across so graphically to the children that one little boy blurted, "Where in the heck were the Marines?" ²

To his followers, Jesus was a real miracle man. Jesus could do anything—raise the dead, make blind people see, feed thousands at a time—even calm storms with his voice.

After all of those miracles, Jesus couldn't even save himself.

If he had been the Christ, he surely would have come down from the cross and beaten those S.O.B.s.

They couldn't imagine that the Great Messiah would have to suffer and then rise from the dead.

Jesus' followers assumed that once the Messiah came, everything would be "heavenly."

- He'd drive out the Romans.
 - Rule from a throne in Jerusalem.
- Bring peace, order, and perfect justice.

The guy they hoped was the Christ didn't do that.

Jesus submitted like a sissy to the Romans.

The Terminator wouldn't let that happen.

"We hoped in Jesus. But he must not have been the real deal. They crucified him. Some women say they saw him alive, but what do they know?"

Jesus said to them: "You didn't pay attention OT prophets and you didn't listen to me." That's one reason we get depressed, and discouraged?

We look at events through the world's eyes; not through the Lord's.

- We want powerful, just rulers; times of peace and prosperity.
- We want personal success and security

Jesus never promised those things.

"In this world you will have trouble . . ." John 16:33.

"On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea," (Luke 21:25b NIV).

In this life of uncertainty and turmoil, here's what the Lord expects of us: "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap,"

(Luke 21: 34)

Jesus predicted exactly right, didn't he?

² *Emphasis*, CSS Publishing, Lima, OH, Nov - Dec 2007

“Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man,” (21:36)

How do you stand before the Son of Man?

We trust God and believe his promises of resurrection with Jesus. We love as he loved, forgive as he forgave, and teach people to obey everything the Lord commanded us.

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20 NIV).

“In 1915, the Turkish army slaughtered over a million Armenians. E. Stanley Jones tells of an Armenian girl and her brother attacked by Turks in a lane. She escaped by climbing a wall, but her brother was brutally killed before her eyes.

“She was a nurse, and later in the hospital, she recognized one of her patients as the Turkish soldier who murdered her brother.

“The Turk was ill, hovering between life and death. The slightest neglect and he would die.

No one would know. She nursed him back to health. When he was convalescing, she told him who she was. He was astounded and asked why she didn't let him die.

“She responded that she was a Christian and that her own master had forgiven those who crucified him. Her words and actions brought that Turkish soldier into the Christian faith.”³

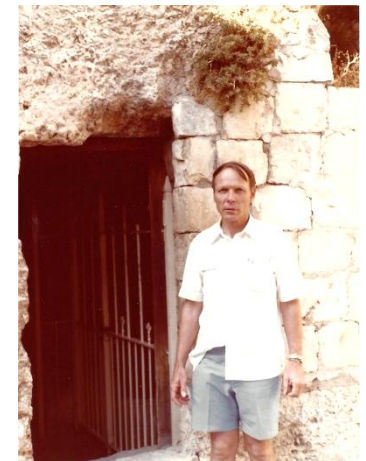
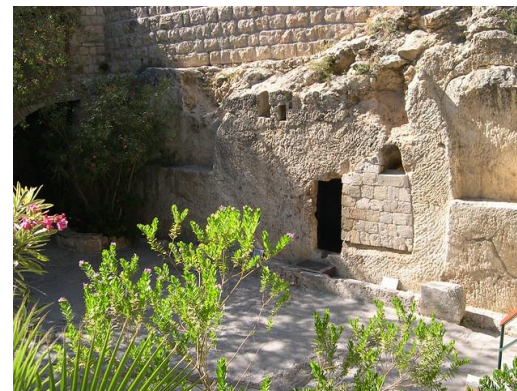
I pray that we shall keep our eyes on the cross, on God's love, on Christ's resurrection power.

“A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.” (John 5: 28, 29).

He is risen. He will raise us, too, if we trust him and serve him. Happy resurrection day!

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Below: The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem where some think Jesus was placed and raised. Below Rt: Bob at the Garden Tomb. 1980. He went inside and inspected where Jesus' body might have been placed.



³ Emphasis, Nov - Dec 2007