

Wisdom from Cleopas Unpacked

Stanza 1

*I thought I knew the story, end to end,
Had named the loss before I named the Friend,
Yet walked with Truth while certain I was wise,
And missed the light that traveled by my side.*

Unpacking

This stanza names the central irony of Emmaus: **they walked with Jesus before they recognized Him**. They thought they understood the story of Jesus, but their interpretation was incomplete and shaped by disappointment.

They named the event (the loss) before they recognized the *Person* (the risen Christ).

Scripture

- **Luke 24:15-16** – “Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.”
- **Luke 24:21** – “We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.”
- **John 1:10** – “He was in the world... yet the world did not know him.”
- **Proverbs 3:7** – “Do not be wise in your own eyes.”

Leadership insight: Familiarity with facts does not equal spiritual sight. We can walk with Truth and still miss Him when certainty replaces humility.

Stanza 2

*He asked me questions more than He explained,
Let me reveal how much I thought I'd gained,
For pride speaks loud, but wisdom waits its turn,
And only humble hearts are free to learn.*

Unpacking

Jesus begins not with teaching, but with **questions**. He draws out their assumptions before correcting them. This exposes the gap between perceived understanding and true wisdom.

Scripture

- **Luke 24:17** – “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other?”
- **Proverbs 18:13** – “If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.”
- **James 1:19** – “Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak.”

- **Proverbs 11:2** – “With humility comes wisdom.”

Leadership insight: Jesus models teachability by first listening. Wisdom begins when pride is allowed to speak itself empty.

Stanza 3

*He opened Scripture, not to prove me wrong,
But to invite my faith to grow more strong,
For teachable is not the mind that knows,
But one that kneels when deeper meaning grows.*

Unpacking

Jesus reframes Scripture not as correction alone, but as **invitation**—drawing them into a larger, truer understanding of God’s plan.

Scripture

- **Luke 24:27** – “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them...”
- **Psalms 119:18** – “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”
- **Matthew 11:25** – “You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.”
- **Proverbs 9:9** – “Teach a wise man, and he will be still wiser.”

Leadership insight: The truly teachable do not defend knowledge—they kneel before mystery.

Stanza 4

*So leader, hold your answers with soft hands,
Let truth correct what pride once firmly planned,
The wisest path is not the one you claim,
But one you walk while willing to be changed.*

Unpacking

This stanza shifts from story to **direct exhortation**. Leadership is portrayed not as certainty, but as *adaptability under truth*.

Scripture

- **Proverbs 16:32** – “He who rules his spirit is better than one who takes a city.”
- **Proverbs 26:12** – “Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”
- **Acts 18:26** – Apollos being “corrected more accurately”

- **Romans 12:2** – “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Leadership insight: The best leaders are not those with the strongest answers, but those most willing to be reshaped by truth.

Stanza 5

*Measured Teachability is not delay,
Nor endless doubt that never dares to say,
It is the strength to listen, slow and still,
And trust that God reveals His truth in will.*

Unpacking

This clarifies that teachability is **not weakness or indecision**, but disciplined receptivity—active listening under God’s timing.

Scripture

- **Isaiah 30:15** – “In quietness and trust shall be your strength.”
- **James 1:5** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God.”
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** – “He has made everything beautiful in its time.”
- **John 16:12-13** – “I have much more to say... but you cannot bear it now.”

Leadership insight: Teachability requires restraint—the courage to wait for God’s unveiling.

Stanza 6

*I learned that sight is born of staying near,
Of asking Him to linger through the fear,
For those who learn before they seek control,
Will find God writes His wisdom on their soul.*

Unpacking

This returns to the climax of Emmaus: **recognition came only after invitation and fellowship.**

Scripture

- **Luke 24:29** – “Stay with us...”
- **Luke 24:31** – “Then their eyes were opened.”
- **James 4:8** – “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”
- **Proverbs 2:3-6** – “If you call out for insight... the Lord gives wisdom.”

Leadership insight: Spiritual sight is relational, not informational. Revelation flows from presence, not control.

The Unified Biblical Pattern

Across all six stanzas, the same truth emerges:

Understanding follows humility, presence, and invitation.

Or in Emmaus terms:

They walked →

They listened →

They invited →

Then they saw.

That is **Measured Teachability** in its purest biblical form.