

## 4-23-25 – Road to Emmaus

This event happened Easter day, shortly after the Resurrection.

Recorded only in **Luke 24**; unnamed followers, **not unknown** to God.  
**Acts 1:12** says about 120 followers of Jesus gathered, selected Matthias.  
Also, Luke 10 says Jesus sent out 70/72 followers, 2x2.

<sup>13</sup> That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles<sup>9</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. <sup>16</sup> But God kept them from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." <sup>19</sup> "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup> We **had hoped** he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. <sup>22</sup> "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. <sup>23</sup> They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! <sup>24</sup> Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You **find it so hard to believe** all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup> Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Imagine . . . talking to Jesus about Jesus. Followed Him, but didn't get Him.

- Like us, want to know Him... but so much we don't understand.
  - o Jesus described people outside the Kingdom of God as being:  
"ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding" - **Mark 4:12** **miss/point**
    - These followers saw Him as a prophet, not the Messiah.

- Notice: They're walking away... don't understand what's happening, so they move on.
  - *Say what??* When u don't understand, stay put. Dig in, deeper.
    - When you stay... God draws nearer.
- Note: "We **had hoped** he was the Messiah"
  - God is not predictable. Came humbly, not with fanfare.
  - His ways are not our ways. His Kingdom is not of this world.
    - You want to understand God/life? **Get close to Him, don't walk away.**
- Jesus makes sense of everything... Moses on... puts pieces together.
  - He said: "**find it so hard to believe all**" the Bible says.
    - Wrestle w/ Jonah/whale... miss: God rescues, 2d chances
    - Job: God restores. David: God forgives. **Sea:** makes/way
      - **Jesus will put the pieces of your life together, too.**
  - Happens when we spend time with Jesus ... listening.
- <sup>28</sup> By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, <sup>29</sup> but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. <sup>30</sup> As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!
- <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Didn't our **hearts burn within** us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, <sup>34</sup> who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."
- <sup>35</sup> Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. <sup>36</sup> And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. "Peace be with you," he said.
- **They don't recognize Jesus** until He breaks bread. We'll have times in our life that we don't recognize Jesus has been with us until it's over.
  - Got thru that b/c Jesus walked w/me... carried me. Went thru the fire, were 4 – not just Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego.

- Realizing Jesus has been there is when heart “burns” within you
  - **Footprints in the Sand**
    - *One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.  
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.  
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.  
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there were one...*
    - *This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life,  
when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,  
I could see only one set of footprints.*
      - *So I said to the Lord, “You promised me Lord,  
that if I followed you, you would walk with me always.  
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life  
there have only been one set of footprints in the sand.  
Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?”*
  - ***The Lord replied, “The times when you have seen only one set of footprints,  
is when I carried you.”***
    - In your grief, disappointment . . . **Jesus will be with you.**
    - They didn’t have to **ask, just notice.** Jesus came to them.  
When He does, include Him in your life. Walk w/Him.
- Note: they **return** to the others within the hour. Got up “at once.”  
When you’ve been impacted by Jesus, you gotta tell it.
  - Don’t waste a minute... tell your story.
    - 7-mile journey from Emmaus to Jerusalem. No small effort.  
Go the **extra miles** for God, your deeds have **extra impact.**
- Might question – **Jesus appeared to Peter?** Not in other Gospels. **1**  
**Cor. 15:** <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ  
died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was  
raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to  
Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five  
hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still  
living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all  
the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also. . .
  - Cephas is **Peter**. Used by Paul when writing in Greek. Peter is  
the name given by Jesus to Simon. Peter means “stone” in  
Greek. Cephas means “stone” in Aramaic.

- **John 1:42** NLT – “Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”)
- Not everything Jesus did is written down.
- **John 20:30-31** – “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”
- **John 21:25** – “There are many more things that Jesus did. If all of them were written down, I suppose that not even the world itself would have space for the books that would be written.”

I share this passage - so you **don't lose hope**. Don't abandon your faith.

We will walk thru some tough times, **Jesus walks w/us**. Not alone.

- God's plan for your life doesn't change b/c you've been surprised...  
*diagnosis – death – job loss – relationship end* - not a surprise to God.
  - Remember, “though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil” – **Psm 23**
  - Your comfort is walking /God. Your anointing is coming.