

Easter  
“Emmaus Disciples Desponding/Believing and Reporting”  
Luke 24:13-36  
April 20, 2025  
Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Easter Sunday is from Luke 24 beginning at verse 13.

**“Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.”**

Seven miles...about from here to La Feria. Most people drive this stretch and it passes by in a few minutes. You always should slow down though when you get close to the 506 exit, because if your eyes are restrained, not paying attention, you might not see a parked driver waiting there. And you wouldn't want to have a conversation with this person because it means you'll be hearing how you better slow down as you receive a ticket for your heavy foot. Fortunately, I haven't had that conversation.

These two travelers who had 7 miles to cover from Jerusalem to Emmaus were not very fleet of foot...yet, that is. They were so slow that a stranger easily came up walking from behind and joined their conversation. It was Jesus. Yes, Jesus had risen. But, they didn't believe that...yet. And, the One who healed the blind so they could see, and caused Saul to not see for a period of time, like having fish scales covering your eyes, restrained these two people from seeing who He was.

Why? Jesus wanted His Word to speak to their hearts, not His appearance. Here we have two people who are not part of the 12 apostles though they are close to this group. We know nothing about one of them, and the other Cleopas, is not further mentioned in the Bible, although some think he is Clopas, Mary's sister's husband.

But the names are not important. What is important is what Jesus does for them. For they were very disheartened, despondent...despairing. They could be any one of us. And that's

the point. You can imagine them trudging along wearily, slowly...talking about what had happened. Then Jesus joins the conversation with a question.

**17 And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”**

Jesus wants each of us to tell Him our problems, sadnesses, cares of life. He wants to hear from us in prayer.

It reminds me of this piece of plywood I saw on expressway 83 going eastbound near the Kansas City exit. About a week ago it was almost a full sheet of plywood. And by the middle of the week it was still laying there on the road, but it was worn down to about half its size, as car after car drove over it and ground it down little by little. Coming home last night, it was still there. Now about a quarter of its size. I suppose no one is ever going to pick it up and eventually it will disintegrate into nothing.

Life is like that sometimes. The problems in life run over us and we get ground down little by little. What kind of conversation are you having these days? Don't worry, Jesus already knows. And what Jesus wants for you in order to be relieved of your sadness is hear Him talk to you through His powerful Word.

So, the conversation continues with the Emmaus disciples, but the things that are so sad for them actually are what give a Christian great comfort!

**18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”**

**19 And He said to them, “What things?”**

**So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened..”**

Not known these things? If there ever was an understatement, this is it. Jesus lived these things, felt these things, received all the evil things of this world upon Himself. Not known these things? Jesus owned them...made them His for the salvation of all people.

It's now the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and they were as sad as ever. And yet, they shouldn't have been despairing. For they had all of God's truth revealed in the Old Testament about His plans for saving the world through His Son. It's all right there for us to read too! How often are you reading God's Word? How often are you coming to God's house to hear His Word and receive His strengthening through the Lord's Supper that He graciously instituted right before He died on Maundy Thursday?

If you're not regularly attending church and bringing your children to church, you're letting your family get ground down like that piece of plywood with no relief. Jesus doesn't want that for anyone. That's why He especially took the time to walk with these two travelers to Emmaus.

What does Jesus do? He scolds them first of all. All the apostles were no different, hiding in fear in a locked room as we will hear in the Gospel reading next Sunday.

**“25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”**

Foolish ones, slow of foot and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken about the Christ. It's all there ...God's grand plan of salvation for all people through Jesus alone...His death, resurrection and entrance into glory. This had to happen. There is an “ought” because there is sin, my sin and yours. There was no other way. But this sadness of the crucifixion turns into great joy with the good news of the resurrection.

So we just read Psalm 22 on Good Friday where in precise detail, Jesus' death through His very words is spoken.

**“All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 “He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”**

**And...” They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones.**

**They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them,  
And for My clothing they cast lots.”**

But then Jesus’ suffering for sin ends, because Jesus paid the full price for our sin ... and the Father delivers Him from the lion’s mouth, as Psalm 22 tells us...

**You have answered Me. 22 I will declare Your name to My brethren;  
In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.**

Yes, Jesus lives to declare the Father’s name to His brethren, to Peter, to the Emmaus disciples, to the 11...to us!

So we’ve also heard from the Old Testament this week from Psalm 118:

**“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
23 This was the Lord’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.  
24 This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.”**

This resurrection day is the Lord’s doing. It is the day He has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it!

And you know what happens when you hear God’s Word? You want to hear more. And Jesus gladly tells you more.

**28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them.**

If there is no further interest, Jesus will not force Himself on anyone. He will keep walking to others. May that never be the case for any of us! Instead, He wants to hear from our lips “Abide with us”, “Abide with me”. And Jesus gladly does.

**“30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.”**

And as they were eating supper after a long journey, Jesus decided that now was the time to reveal His appearance to them. They had heard the Word and believed and now they were privileged to see the resurrected Lord! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed, Jesus will tell doubting Thomas.

We have not seen but we have the Old Testament which Jesus used to open the disciples understanding. And we not only have the Old Testament, but the New Testament which further illuminates and teaches all of us pilgrims who travel down the roads of this life. The Bible tells without a doubt the glorious Good News of Jesus' victory over sin, death and the devil for you!

What was the response of the Emmaus disciples?

**“32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.”**

It didn't matter that it was late at night to go travel 7 miles back to Jerusalem. They had the Good News that couldn't wait until morning. They had the understanding from Scripture...Scripture alone! It had to be shared. Their hearts were burning to share it! And so must we!

**“these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”**

And as you have believed, you too can report to others what you have come to know as the truth...Jesus crucified, buried and resurrected for all people. Walk with others on their sad road and open to them God's great plan of salvation. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Amen

**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**