

Luke 24:13-35 — On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ 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.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

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1. Have you ever suddenly understood a truth that had earlier confused you? What was it like?
2. How could the two disciples on the road missing the significance of history's greatest event? What emotions did the two men display? (24:17)
3. How had the events of the last few days crushed the expectations of the two men?
4. How are your expectations of the Christian life sometimes changed by life's trials? What did you think your life would be like after you became a Christian? Have you ever felt like running away or throwing in the towel spiritually?
5. To compound the problem, the two disciples were *leaving* Jerusalem, walking *away* from the fellowship of believers there. Have you ever turned your back on things when your hopes were dashed and your plans frustrated? What would be better to do in those situations?
6. Why are we so often "slow of heart to believe?" (24:25) Have you ever been guilty of unbelief? What do you think prevents people from believing in Jesus?
7. Why did Jesus explain the scriptures to the men? (24:25-27) If you are puzzled by deep questions or problems, where can you turn? If you don't understand parts of the Bible, where can you turn?
8. What great truths has God taught you that you failed to understand at first?
9. How did these men respond to their encounter with Jesus? (24:33-35) Why did they then want to return to Jerusalem?
10. What is the thing that triggers a spiritual crisis for you? (A) financial panic, (B) anger with God over personal tragedy, (C) disappointment in a relationship, (D) domestic problems/hassles, (E) questions/doubts about my faith, (F) lack of direction from God, (G) disillusionment with my church, (H) other _____
11. What could you do in the future to prevent yourself from failing to recognize God's voice and directions? What would help you recognize Jesus walking along side you when you are down spiritually?