

SERMON NOTES (EMMAUS WALK LUKE 24:13-35)

Introduction. The walk to Emmaus reveals intersections of Jesus' life and our lives and it is a story with which we are familiar, a story of shattering and restoration. If your life has ever been shattered, then this is your story. If your life has ever been restored, then this is your story. And if you've ever been, between shattering and restoration, then this is also your story. Within this story is a pattern that describes the journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus and back to Jerusalem. It's a journey taken by Cleopas and his companion and it's a journey each of us has taken, is taking, or will take. It's not, however, a one-time journey. It's a journey we take again and again. I am not talking about Jerusalem and Emmaus as particular geographical locations. I am talking about them as representative realities.

We know where Emmaus is, don't we? We've all been there in one way or another, at some time in our lives. Emmaus is whatever we do or wherever we go, to salvage and sort out our feelings, to summon the courage and the desire to keep going on or to try and figure out how to cope with our challenges. If so, then you know what it's like to be Cleopas and his companion.

The passage lends itself to 4 movements:

1. **Meeting with Jesus** (verses 13-16);
2. **Message from Jesus** (vv17-27);
3. **Meal with Jesus** (vv28-32);
4. **Messengers for Jesus** (vv33-35)

1.Meeting with Jesus (verses 13-16)

I hear people say they are looking for God. That is not very true. The truth is, He is looking for you. Why? You are lost, He is not. In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve sinned against God and hid themselves from Him. God came looking, seeking them out when He asked the question, "Where are you?" He is still asking the same question today.

2. Message from Jesus

He asked them, "what are you discussing as you walk along? (v.17) Cleopas asked him, "Where in the world have you been? Are you the only one in Jerusalem who does not know what has happened?" "What things" Jesus asked. 'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. "**He was a prophet**, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people." (v.20). Our chief Priests connived with the Roman authorities and had him humiliated and killed. But we had thought he was the One going to redeem Israel. These 2 people had been let down by their religious leaders. Furthermore, their sorrow was compounded by the tales from the women who went to the tomb and reported they "had seen a vision of angels who said Jesus is alive....,"

They described Jesus as a prophet. They no longer said Jesus was the "Messiah" or "Christ." They've lost faith and are finding it too hard to believe Jesus. Of what benefit was a Messiah who would allow himself to be arrested, clobbered by the authorities and publicly humiliated even before the ready Zealots could be summoned to take up arms and fight the Romans? Therefore, as they went, Cleopas and his companion believed it was all over. Their dreams had been dashed and buried!

When things get dark in our life, when we lose our jobs or a loved one dies or a tragedy happens, and our hearts don't consider the Christ factor, it's easy to say, "Maybe he's not God, maybe Jesus is not as powerful as I thought." But they were wrong and so are we if we think that way.

Jesus said to them, *“How foolish you are and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter His glory? And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself (vv. 25,26).* Do you see the connection in our lives- of how we live foolishly, think foolishly and react foolishly because we are slow to believe all that the Scriptures have declared? How will your life change if you resolve to take God at His word and believe the Word of God?

Jesus goes through a bird’s eye view of the Old Testament to say that it’s all pointing towards him. It’s not that every word is about Jesus, but that they tell us about our sins and so our need for Jesus and a coming Savior. The opening chapters of Genesis talk about the descendent of Eve who is going to crush the serpent’s head. (Gen 3:15)...Maybe he dwelt on Exodus 12 and talked about the meaning of the Passover or Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 about the suffering Messiah.

Has your faith grown weak to the point that you have allowed despondency to become your life partner? Jesus is here to open the Scriptures to you because they speak about him. Now is the time to invite him, the resurrected Christ to burn His passion in you, because He will never force himself on anyone.

3. Meal with Jesus (vv28-32).

So, as they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. But they urged him strongly; Stay with us, for it is nearly evening.

When they were at table, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them, though it is customary for the host to break bread. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him. **He was there all the time.** And he disappeared from their sight. **The faith of these disciples had been renewed by their understanding of Scriptures not by the sight of the Stranger.** Their hope was renewed, and their joy was restored as they believed Jesus is resurrected.

4. Messengers for Jesus (vv.33-35)

They got up and returned to Jerusalem. Spending that night in Emmaus would not do, because they had a message to share about the risen Jesus. They couldn’t keep it to themselves.

This story is God’s story and our story. It is a story of divine love, searching for and seeking out the lost. It is the story of sheep wandering and the shepherd gathering. And when you make that discovery, the most natural thing you want to do is tell others about it too, which is exactly what happens to Cleopas and his companion(v 33). At Jerusalem, they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together (v34) and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." (v.35) Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Are you a messenger for Jesus?

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