

## **`The Road to Emmaus**

### **Bible Study Lesson for April 19, 2020**

The account in Luke 24:13-34 provides us with details of an encounter by two disciples of Jesus on the same day Jesus rose from the dead. These disciples were probably two of the Seventy that Jesus sent out according to Luke 10:1-17. These men were not well-known, but Luke gives us the name of one of them, Cleopas.

**Read Luke 24:13-18. What is happening in these verses, and what is the mood of the two men?**

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**What does Jesus ask Cleopas?**

**(v.17)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does Cleopas ask Jesus?**

**(v.18)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What question does Jesus ask in verse 19?** \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus **experienced** everything that happened in Jerusalem. Why would he ask for their account?

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**Read Luke 24:19-20. How do the men describe Jesus in verse 19?**

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Their description of Jesus focuses on the Jesus they knew in life and the faith they had in Him. Look at the contrast in verse 20 as they describe what happened to Jesus. What verbs do they use to describe what happened? In their description, who seemed to be in charge of what happened?

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**Read Luke 24:21. What were the men hoping?**

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**What does this verse tell us about where the men were in processing the violent, fast-paced, heartbreaking final hours of Jesus' life?**

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Note that they add: “Besides, this is the third day.” This statement could mean, “If there had been any hope, surely it would have been confirmed by now.” Perhaps there is still some hope, but mostly confusion.

**In Luke 24: 22-24, the men give more evidence of their consternation. What did the women tell the men?**

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**Upon hearing this news, what do some of the people who were with the men do?**

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**What did they find? \_\_\_\_\_ Whom did they not find? \_\_\_\_\_**

At this point, it seems that the two men simply did not know how to put these things together. They did not know what to make of all that they had seen, heard, and experienced.

**Read Luke 24: 25-27.** Note: The word “fool” or “foolish ones” in the Greek is not an expression of contempt as it is in English. In this instance, it means “thoughtless.” We know Jesus would not have addressed these confused, heartbroken men with words of contempt. He does reprove or correct them, as a parent does with a child. What had the men been “thoughtless” and slow of heart to believe in?

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Their disorientation, distress, and disappointment over the last three days had prevented them from remembering the evidence in the Old Testament--the very testimonies of their own prophets--that Jesus must die and rise again.

Remember that the two men had most likely witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus, had heard about the empty tomb, and had heard that Jesus was not there.

Remember that Jesus comes alongside them, meets them in their place of doubt and despair, and joins them in their search for answers.

**Read Luke 24:26-27. What does Jesus say to help them work through their questions, their doubts, and their hopelessness?**

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**Read Luke 24:28.** As the two men neared their village of Emmaus, perhaps they are going to the home of one of them or to an inn. Jesus indicates that He is going a bit farther, which is a polite way to avoid imposing on someone’s hospitality. Note that he waits for an invitation.

**What do the two men say in response to Jesus, and what reasons do they give?**

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**Read Luke 24:30-31.** Perhaps the two men recognized Jesus' distinct way of breaking bread from the loaf and giving it to them, or perhaps Jesus chose that moment to open their eyes to His true identity. Either way, "...they knew Him!"

And then, He vanished. His purpose for coming to them was fulfilled. Jesus had imparted comfort, and insight and had shared sweet communion with them.

**Read Luke 24:32-35. What evidence do we have that their doubts were gone?**

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In verse 32, the two men recalled how their hearts were burning within them as Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. We are so blessed to have both the Old and New Testaments to read and study.

Let's pause for a moment and think about the disorientation, distress, disappointments, and doubts that we have been experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic. List some of the concerns, thoughts, and feelings you have experienced or are experiencing in these days of uncertainty.

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Just as Jesus met the two men on the Emmaus Road to speak to their questions, doubts, and hopelessness, He meets us today through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. In John 14:25-27, Jesus tells his followers that the Father will send the Holy Spirit, the Helper, to teach us and to bring to our minds all that Jesus said. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled. Neither let it be afraid."

**Take a moment and read those words again.** Meditate on those words, and then express your gratitude to God for those precious promises and for the sweet Presence of the Holy Spirit abiding within you.

**Romans 8:26-28** says that often we do not know how to pray. It is then that the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings too deep for words. Look back at your list of concerns. Are there times when they seem overwhelming? Our Heavenly Father knows your heart, and He understands. "He is near to those who have a broken heart and a crushed spirit" (Psalm 34:18). He wants you to share your concerns with Him. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy

laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart: and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28-29).

Prepare now to lift your concerns and your burdens to God. (You may choose to use your list from above, or just name those that come to you at this time.) As you name each one, follow your request with this phrase, **“I trust you with this, Father. I will be patient and wait upon You.” In the days ahead, make a habit of repeating the phrase “I trust you, Father” when you arise, during the day, and when you go to bed.**

In the coming days, think about how Jesus “caught up with” Cleopas and his friend and walked beside them on the Road to Emmaus. Praise God for walking alongside us each day. **Pause during the day to talk with Him, share your thoughts with Him, and listen for His voice.**

Blessings!

“The Pastor”