

The Road to Emmaus

Key Scripture:

"... And it occurred that as He reclined at table with them, He took [a loaf of] bread and praised [God] and gave thanks and asked a blessing, and then broke it and was giving it to them. When their eyes were [instantly] opened and they [clearly] recognized Him... And they said to one another, Were not our hearts greatly moved and burning within us while He was talking with us on the road and as He opened and explained to us [the sense of] the Scriptures?" Luke 24:13-47 (AMP)

Portion for the Journey:

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS provides us with one of the most detailed and intimate portraits of Jesus meeting with two of His children after His resurrection. The context of this passage is that Jesus had been crucified and His body laid in the tomb. His disciples were scattered. They were filled with doubts of whether Jesus was the Messiah as they had believed. There were rumors of an open tomb and missing body but faith seems to be at a low point given the awful circumstances of Jesus' death. Jesus so beautifully enters into the conversation of two follows and reveals not only Himself, but also opens the Word in such a way as to remove all of their doubts. One of these is named as Cleopas, the other is unnamed and we do not know if it is a man or woman. Their experience took place shortly before He ascended into heaven. LUKE 24:13-34 teaches many components of what happens when we engage in Biblical Meditation. Let us ask the LORD to help us to fully understand all He has placed in this passage for application in our own lives.

v. 13 **"Two of them were going"** The fact that there were two of them is significant. Amos 3:3 asks, 'Can two walk together unless they are agreed?' Jesus promises us in Matt. 18:19,20 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My Name, there I am in their midst." Never feel that you need a large group in order to pray. This passage says that Jesus appeared to two as they were going down the road to Emmaus. God is not impressed by large numbers but by the sincerity and condition of the heart. Do not despise small beginnings! Zech. 4:10; 2 Cor. 11:2,3

Agree 4856 Symphoneo. Used most often in reference to music. The word in the Greek comes from two parts, sum (together, totality) and phonos (to sound) meaning to be harmonious in sound together, to be in harmony, to sound together without discordant notes.

The Greek here does not specify whether these were two men or a man and a woman. Holman's study Bible suggests it could have been a husband and wife. An early tradition was that Cleopas was the brother of Joseph, Cleopas was married and his wife, whose name was Mary, may have been one who remained at the foot of the cross when others fled. (John 19:25) Regardless of whether it was two men, or a man and wife, the encouraging thing about these two followers, is that they were not of the inner circle of disciples and yet they merited such an intimate time of fellowship and teaching by Jesus. As He appeared to them, we can be encouraged to believe He will also be willing to do the same for us!

vs. 13 **“...they were going that day to a village named ‘Emmaus.’** These individuals were travelling on the road to Emmaus. The name 'Emmaus' means a warm spring, and comes from a root meaning daily, i.e. from sunrise to sunset, a space of time continually. A spring is a source of water that comes from deep in the earth. The water from a spring is clean and pure. It is referred to as 'living or moving water' as opposed to water in a cistern or man-made reservoir, which is not moving and prone to loss of vitality and stagnation. It is to be noted that they were travelling toward the west, signifying sunset, and this is consistent with the impression they had of loss of hope and impending darkness. Sunrise (east) is always associated with the coming of the Messiah, of Jesus return. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. We can depend on Him and the certainty and truth of His Word in times filled with encouragement but also in times of confusion and discouragement! His living water does not fail!

Emmaus is a reminder that we are to stand fast in our faith, regardless of circumstances or how things appear. These followers were confused because they did not adequately understand what the Word had spoken concerning the need for Jesus to be offered as a sacrifice and that this was part of God's plan.

Jesus is our Living Water and we are called to drink of His waters. The scriptures make many references comparing to biblical meditation to springs of living waters. These waters are both for cleansing and renewal. Living water comes from fresh springs, it is moving and vitally alive. Ps 1:1-3 “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

Emmaus was seven miles from Jerusalem. Seven is a number which symbolizes God's perfection or completion. Isn't it beautiful that He met these two followers who were walking in confusion and doubt, to open their eyes and give them understanding of the Scriptures and to reveal Himself to them as their resurrected Savior? He did not leave them to wonder if they had hoped in vain.

v. 14-15 **“...they were talking [communing] with each other about these things that had taken place...so it was while they conversed and reasoned [together, to investigate jointly--in union, association or companionship, to be totally united in questioning or reasoning; speaks of completeness]”** Even though they were not praying or seeking the Lord, He was listening. “Then those who feared the Lord talked often one to another; and the Lord listened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who revered and worshipfully feared the Lord and who thought on His name. And they shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I publicly recognize and openly declare them to be My jewels (My special possession, My peculiar treasure). And I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him.” Malachi 3:16-17 (AMP)

v. 15, **that Jesus Himself had approached them [drew near] and was walking [to journey together] with them. Eccles. 4:12 offers the following wisdom:** “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NKJV)

v. 16 **“But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.”** How often does Jesus walk beside us and we do not recognize Him? Pray as Paul prayed, for eyes to be opened (Eph. 1:15-23)

vs. 17-26 Even though they did not recognize Him, something in the personage of “this stranger” unlocked their inmost hearts. Alfred Edersheim, in his book, “The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah,” writes, “Their flushed faces bore the marks of sadness on account of those events on which they had been speaking—disappointed hopes, all the more bitter for the perplexing tidings of the empty tomb and the absent body of Christ....They told him their thoughts about this Jesus, how He had showed Himself a prophet mighty in deed before God and all the people. ...Their words were almost childlike in their simplicity, deeply truthful, and with a pathos and earnest craving for guidance and comfort that goes straight to the heart. To such souls as this, the Risen Savior would give His first teaching.” Their words reveal their confusion and unbelief. I believe it was with sadness that Jesus said to them (v. 25) “O foolish men and slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken.” The Bible warns that His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) “But Jesus replied to them, You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor God's power.” **Matthew 22:29 (AMP)**

vs. 27 **“He explained to them concerning Himself in all the Scriptures”** The Bible is not a compilation of random bits and pieces. From start to finish, it forms a composite picture of Jesus and the Father’s plan to bring about the redemption of His chosen ones. The word ‘explain’ or ‘expounded’ means to explain thoroughly, by implication to translate, expound or interpret. We come to the Word of God realizing we have NO WISDOM, NO UNDERSTANDING, and that we do not know how to pray as we ought. We need to seek Him and to listen for the wisdom and understanding He provides for us.

vs. 28-29 **“He acted as though He would go further but they urged Him...”** He would not force himself upon them, He waited for their invitation to come in and abide with them. The passage said they “constrained Him” The word constrained or “urged” comes from the Strong's #3849 parabiazomai, meaning 'to force, contrary to nature, i.e. compel (by entreaty), From two Greek roots: ‘Para’ near, beside, in the vicinity, proximity of AND ‘biaos’-violent, mighty. Biaos comes from the same word in Matt. 11:12 when Jesus said, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and violent men take it by force.

v. 29 **“They said to Him, “Abide (3306) with us...and He went in to stay (3306) with them.** The word “abide” is meno, (Strong’s 3306) meaning to stay in a given place, state, relation, or expectancy), to continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand or tarry. The word “tarry” is a very descriptive for it means to stop, to delay leaving, to remain. To be slow about leaving or departing. It is used frequently in the NT to describe an intimately close relationship between Jesus and His people. See John 14:4, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16; John 15:4;

The word "with" in the Greek is a powerful word "meta" which means 'amid, in the midst with, among, accompanying, companionship, fellowship, among. To sit or stand with or in the midst of others, where one is said to do or suffer anything with another, implying joint or mutual action, influence or suffering. Nearness or partnership.

God responds to the heart that is hungry and actively seeking the Lord. When He acts as if He intends to leave us, He is giving us the opportunity to wrestle to keep Him!

Isa 26:8-9 describes the kind of heart He loves, "Indeed, while following the way of Thy judgments, O LORD, we have waited for Thee eagerly, Thy name, even Thy memory, is the desire of our souls. At night

my soul longs for Thee, indeed, my spirit within me seeks Thee diligently." The Hebrew word for seek used in this passage means to be up early at any task, with the implication of great diligence, intense earnestness and painstaking care.

Prov 2:1-5 1 My son, IF you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and IF you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 THEN you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. (NIV)

v. 30 **"He...reclined at the table with them"** "He went in to tarry with them." Or KJV says, "sat at meat". (Strong's 2625) This means to recline down, i.e. to take a place at the table (make to sit down).

Rev 3:20-22 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The word "sup" contains many of the aspects to be found in meditation. If you look up the meaning of "sup" you will find that it is to dine with or take the principal evening meal or feast. The evening meal was the most important meal of the day-- it was a time of nourishment but more importantly a time of friendship and fellowship. This meal was customarily taken in a very leisurely manner with the members of the family sitting or lying around a low table. This time was for more than physical nourishment, it was a time when the rabbi or teacher would hold those present spellbound with teaching from the Word. We see this meal greatly exemplified in Jesus Last Supper with His disciples. It is a time to be fed of His Spirit and enjoy our friendship with Him. The Lord is calling His people to enter into a Sabbath rest from their own works and to enter into His inner chamber, the Holy of Holies, the Secret Place of the Most High." Jesus has called us to be seated with Him in the Heavenly places (Eph. 2:5-6).

vs. 30. **"He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them."** Throughout the Bible, bread is synonymous with receiving nourishment from God's Word. Jer 15:16 When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. (NIV) Each person gets a portion. Deut. 33:3 "Indeed he loves the people, All Thy holy ones are in Thy hand, and they followed in Thy steps; everyone receives of Thy Words." As all the pieces are gathered together and compared, we will receive a greater revelation and understanding

v. 31 **"Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him."** God's Word brings light and gives us the ability to know the LORD. "The entrance *and* unfolding of Your words give light; their unfolding gives understanding (discernment and comprehension) to the simple." **Psalm 119:130 (AMP); John 8:37 (AMP); 2 Cor. 4:4**

vs. 32, 45 **"They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us." "Burning means "to be set on fire, kindled, set full of light." V. 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. God's Word has the power to revive our hearts and set us on fire for Him!**

Vs. 33-35 **"They arose that very hour and returned to Jerusalem..."** Meditation prepares our hearts for prayer and equips us for action. They had just walked 7 miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Now they joyfully returned to Jerusalem to announce the good news of Jesus' resurrection!!

What the LORD is speaking to my heart:

My Response to the LORD:

This precious time of nearness to the Lord will always bring forth response to Him in adoration, worship, repentance, and prayer and intercession. It is through our times of meditating in God's Word that we are brought into communion with Him and he brings us into His secret counsel. He shares with us things that we can know in no other way and teaches us how to pray according to His will, His plans and His purposes. We begin to receive His perspective to situations rather than our own. It is through meditation that He takes His desires and makes them our desires, to bring us into understanding of His word and His ways. In Ephesians 6:17 we are instructed to "take up...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The word used for WORD in this passage is "rhema", which is the word of God spoken or revealed to us by His Spirit.

"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. 2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay." Hab 2:1-3 (NIV)