

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“THE ROAD TO EMMAUS”

For individual study or discussion

In today’s passage, we find another example where it is hard to see Jesus for who he really is when we don’t take him at his word. Earlier, in verses 1-12, the women fail to grasp the meaning of the empty tomb until two angels remind them of Jesus’ words, “Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise” (vv. 6-7). In Luke 24:13-35, Jesus spends the first Easter Sunday unfolding Scripture with two unsuspecting disciples on **the road to Emmaus**, reshaping their understanding of who he is and what he came to do.

Redemption Misunderstood (vv. 13-24)

Outside of Jerusalem, a pair of Jesus’ followers are leaving the city, traveling on a road to a town called Emmaus. Sad and confused, their hopes for the immediate triumph of God’s Kingdom are shattered. And so the two disciples find themselves in the grip of a spiritual crisis: “We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel” (v. 21). That is, until a curious visitor draws near and asks what they are talking about. Not recognizing Jesus, they are incredulous of his ignorance. Unaffected, Jesus asks, “What things?” and quietly listens as they share their sorrow. As one commentator points out, “He was there in their despair and heard it all, though they did not realize it. Could it be that way with Christ’s people quite often? That in the darkness we don’t see how close our comfort is?”¹

- The disciples on the road to Emmaus are looking for a conquering King but instead they receive a suffering Savior. They expected Jesus would redeem Israel. But what kind of redemption were they expecting? Discuss the disciples’ disappointment over their expectation of a political Messiah in light of prophecies found in Isaiah 9:2-7 and 53:1-12.
- Why do you think Jesus asks questions to answers he already knows? What can we learn about discipleship and evangelism from this approach? Read John 4:7-26 and Genesis 3:9. How does Jesus use questions to draw people into truth?

Redemption Clarified (vv. 25-27)

But Jesus does not leave the disciples in their confusion. He opens the Scriptures to them and expounds the history of salvation, explaining the various details foreshadowing his identity and mission. In the introduction of her children’s book, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones describes this powerful redemptive arc of Scripture: “Every story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle—the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together, and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture.”²

- Verse 25 calls attention to the disciples failure to place Jesus’ life and ministry within the context of Scripture. Read Colossians 1:15-20. How did Jesus embody the fullness of salvation through his sufferings and death on the cross?

Redemption Tasted and Seen (vv. 28-35)

When the group finally arrives in Emmaus, the disciples insist that Jesus stay the night. The sermon they receive from Jesus is now joined by the breaking of the bread at their dinner table. It is at this point that they finally recognize Jesus. As one author concludes, “With this single episode after his resurrection, Jesus joins together head and body, word and image, Scripture and sacrament.”³ Jesus vanishes, and their hearts burn within them: “What set their hearts ablaze — in the language of Augustine, what captivated their affections — was an interpretation of Scripture that put Jesus and his finished work front and center.”⁴

- Read Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. In the Lord’s Supper, what are we to remember? When is Jesus finally revealed to the two disciples? Why do you think this is so significant?
- Read Romans 10:17 and Psalm 119:130. What does the phrase “Did not our hearts burn within us” tell us about the connection between faith and hearing?
- Augustine wrote, “*solvitur ambulando*” – it is solved by walking. Take time this week to walk and talk with God about one thing that is weighing on your heart and mind.

DATE: April 27, 2025

SPEAKER: John Mark/Chad

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 24:13-35

Family Dinner Table

Below is a poem by English poet and pastor, Malcolm Guite. After reading the poem, consider how the poem’s language of grief and disbelief mirrors that of the disciples sorrow on the road to Emmaus, as well as Jesus’ invitation to see his suffering and death on the cross as part of God’s overarching redemptive plan.

Emmaus 2 by Malcolm Guite

Luke 24:25-26 “And he said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’”

We thought that everything was lost and gone,
Disaster on disaster overtook us
The night we left our Jesus all alone
And we were scattered, and our faith forsook us.
But oh that foul Friday proved far worse,
For we had hoped that he had been the one,
Till crucifixion proved he was a curse,
And on the cross our hopes were all undone.

Oh foolish, foolish heart why do you grieve?
Here is good news and comfort to your soul:
Open your mind to Scripture and believe
He bore the curse for you to make you whole
The living God was numbered with the dead
That He might bring you Life in broken bread.

Guite, Malcolm. *Parable and Paradox: Sonnets on the Sayings of Jesus and Other Poems*. 2016. London. Canterbury Press. 90

- Are you slow to believe what God has already spoken in his Word? What specific promises or truths do you struggle to trust right now?

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Choices Pregnancy Center, supported partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Beth & Del Stanton, supported missions partners

¹ Davis, Dale Ralph. *Luke 14-24: On the Road to Jerusalem*. 2021. Ross-shire, Scotland. Christian Focus Publications. 226

² Lloyd-Jones, Sally. *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*. 2007. Grand Rapids, MI. Zonderkidz. 17

³ De Sapio, Michael. Trembling, Joy, & Wonder: Post-Easter Inspiration. April 6, 2024. *The Imaginative Conservative.org* (also paraphrased)

⁴ Hicks, Zac. *Set Our Hearts on Fire Again*. October 9, 2016. *Desiring God.org*.