

Emmaus - what a trip.

On the Road to Emmaus

Luk 24:13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

That very day!!!! Notice the day Jesus rose again. We have Emmaus Sunday the week after Easter but really it should be part of the resurrection celebrations.

Luk 24:14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

This sets the scene- we know what's going on. They talked about it. Reflected on it.

Luk 24:15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

Luk 24:16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

Jesus turns up and they don't recognise Him. He walks with them. Notice their eyes were kept from recognising him. Why? Probably cause it would have freaked them out and Jesus had stuff to talk to them about.

Luk 24:17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.

They stopped and I can just imagine the deflated looks on their faces. Then they explain.

Luk 24:18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

Luk 24:19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

Luk 24:20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

Luk 24:21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem

Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

Ok, Jesus asks what's going on, and Cleopas tells him the story. Note that they hoped he was the Messiah person.(v21) A lot of people recognise that Jesus is very different and had high hopes that he would use that differentness.

Luk 24:22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,

Luk 24:23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.

Luk 24:24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

They tell the resurrection story. That specific story that had been shared for the first time earlier in the day by Mary and Mary to the disciples, then obviously these guys were part of that process.

Luk 24:25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

Luk 24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

Jesus tells them they are missing the point. They still don't know they are hanging out with Jesus.

Luk 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So Jesus gives them the full picture. Apparently there are over 100 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. Some of them I don't understand, but remember they were written over 400 years before Jesus at least. (There is about a 400 year gap between Old Testament and the New Testament) I have a list of references on my desk referring to 351 prophecies and their fulfilments if you want a copy.

Alongside this, I am sure there were more words used to explain it than what we have written here. The prophecies from the Old Testament, what was predicted and how that turned out.

Luk 24:28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,

Luk 24:29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.

Luk 24:30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.

These guys offer hospitality and probably wanted some more information from further discussion.

THEN

Communion- they get it. Broke bread, broken body, cup of wine, sacrifice given. It all comes together, it all makes sense- this is Jesus.

Luk 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

Just imagine this bit, they work it out and he goes, how embarrassing, how frustrating, how bizarre. I wonder if Jesus is using a sense of humour here. OK, you've worked it out by this and he disappears. Just a bit of reinforcement that Jesus is truly amazing.

Luk 24:32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

The discussion is about what they learnt and how they felt about it. I wonder, I just wonder if they talked on the way back to Jerusalem, what do you reckon? Maybe they walked to fast to talk, but imagine the thought processes.

Luk 24:33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

Their experience and the teachings of Jesus created an urgency, a desire to tell others and really with that experience you'd want to share too wouldn't you. So, they head back to Jerusalem, about 12 km. Now this is not drive, catch a bus or taxi or even ride a bike – it is walk, and walk at night and mind you with haste.

Luk 24:34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

Luk 24:35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

They got told Jesus has risen and they shared their story.

Now this is a great story but how does it affect us?

One of the main points is that: all that has happened with Jesus has already been predicted and written down by Moses and the prophets and is now being fulfilled.

But here is one thought: It also serves as a model for us in our own discipleship: Jesus opened the eyes of these men, steered them to the full truth that is contained in God's Holy Word, the Bible, and ultimately revealed Himself to them as the resurrected savior.

He still walks with us through all of that. He still explains Himself, He still answers the questions. Still.