

Sunday Lesson – April 11, 2021

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 13-35

Emmaus Road

Background

“The story of the disciples on the Emmaus Road is important for many reasons. It provides an *emphasis* on the Old Testament prophecies related to Jesus, *evidence* regarding an additional appearance of Jesus, and a connection regarding the many *eyewitnesses* of the resurrected Jesus. Luke 24 is often seen as a model of the journey that Jesus makes with many of us today, as He opens our eyes, points us to the Word, and reveals Himself along life’s walk as the resurrected Savior and Lord.” *(Excerpts from gotquestions.org/road-to-Emmaus.html)*

Insight

“Why Does Jesus Not Reveal Himself Until Dinnertime?” Jesus does not reveal Himself to the men while they are on the road. Instead, He waits until they have arrived at their destination and are relaxed, preparing to enjoy a meal, before He allows the men’s eyes to be opened. Many scholars believe this parallels the discernment process for many of us. Sometimes, when we cannot understand something, we gather information. Then it must settle within our hearts. Only when we have fully “digested” what we’ve learned, allowed it to sink in, does the truth come out. The men do not seem extraordinarily surprised when they finally realize it had been Jesus that whole time. As they asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” (v. 32). It took a little time for their hearts and their heads to catch up with each other, but they finally did, and they knew the truth completely. Then, fired up with their new



knowledge, they rushed off to tell the apostles the good news.” *(Excerpts from christianity.com/wiki/bible/what-is-the-significance-of-the-road-to-emmaus.html)*

Gospel Reading

“That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was. He asked, “What’s this you’re discussing so intently as you walk along?” They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard what’s happened during the last few days?” He said, “What has happened?” They said, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn’t find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn’t see Jesus.” Then he said to them, “So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can’t you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don’t you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?” Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him. They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going

on but they pressed him: “Stay and have supper with us. It’s nearly evening; the day is done.” So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared. Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?” They didn’t waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: “It’s really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!” Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.” The Message

What It Could Mean?

“It is no accident that the first place the Risen Jesus shows up in the Gospel of Luke is on a road. Journeying is a prominent motif throughout Luke’s two-volume work (the Gospel and Acts). Repeatedly, Jesus meets people along the road: the middle section of Luke’s Gospel (the so-called “Travel Narrative”) is structured around Jesus’ journey from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-19:27); Acts says that the first self-designation for the newly-emergent movement of Jesus-followers was not “Christians,” but “the Way” (*hodos*, Acts 9:2; 22:4; 24:14, 22). The Lukan focus on travel—both literal and figurative—serves as an apt metaphor for discipleship, following in Jesus’ footsteps.

Jesus’ question—“What are you discussing?”—pushes us to pause and pay attention to the stories that we are telling and to the fact that what we discuss shapes what we can and cannot see. Do the things we discuss amongst ourselves (and the assumptions we make when we talk) lead us toward Jesus? Toward wholeness? Away from bitterness? Conversely: what

are we **not** discussing? To what and to whom are we **not** paying attention, and in our neglect or ignorance, devaluing other travelers on this shared journey?

Jesus asks Cleopas and his companion twice what they are talking about, **even though he obviously knows**. He is the expert because he is the one who experienced it. What they really need to do is listen to **him** tell the story. Instead, they discuss someone else’s suffering, assuming they already understand. This ironically leads them to miss the truth, the risen Jesus, when he is right there with them.

Luke 24:13-35 invites us to ask: What are we discussing and how are we discussing it? What are we assuming we understand that perhaps we do not? What if other people are the experts on their own experiences? We follow Jesus’ Emmaus road example when, instead of claiming Mastery, we ask questions and really listen to the answers.” (*Excerpts from workingpreacher.org by Michal Beth Dinkler*)

Readings for Further Study

- [Matthew 28: 16-20/Mark 16: 14-19/John 20: 19-31/John 21](#) *Other scriptures where Jesus appears after Sunday morning when tomb found empty*

Thought for the Day

Many of us have at times walked the Emmaus road, wondering where God is...**when all along He walks beside us.** ~ Randy Alcorn

A Prayer

Mysterious and Divine Presence, too often our hearts burn within us because our bodies know before our minds that you are here working in us and through us in this world. Open our eyes, and help us to recognize you in all places and in all people, for the sake of the one whose presence is never far, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**