

Luke 24:13-33 - “A Tale of Two Travelers”

I. The Situation

- a. After crucifixion; all the disciples are scared, confused, or in despair
- b. Emmaus—about seven miles from Jerusalem
- c. V. 15—“...discussed...” implies an intense debate
- d. Two disciples—Cleopas and one unnamed (presumably not one of the twelve)

II. Jesus (Incognito)

- a. The resurrected Christ joins them on the walk; they don’t recognize him
- b. The irony—we, the readers, know who is with them while they are clueless

III. The Conversation

- a. Jesus, in disguise, plays dumb and draws out their thoughts; their sadness and confusion is revealed
- b. They had believed in Jesus as Messiah only to be disappointed; “... but we had hoped...”
- c. They knew enough about Jesus to have faith in him, but didn’t grasp the larger picture (Messiah not just to redeem Israel, but the sin of humankind)
- d. They heard the women’s story of the empty tomb and angels but still didn’t get it (women in first century Palestine held little credibility)
- e. The stranger (Jesus) explains to them how this all fit into God’s plan (perhaps referenced *Isaiah 53*, *Psalms 2:7, 16, 110:1*, *Deuteronomy 18:15*, *Daniel 7:13-14*)

IV. The Sudden Realization—It Changes Everything

- a. Jesus reveals himself through the breaking of bread
- b. From aimlessness to mission; they had left Jerusalem but now make the seven mile return trip (a symbolic journey of faith)
- c. From confusion to understanding—v. 31—‘their eyes are opened’
- d. From despair to elation—v. 18—‘looking downcast’; v. 32—‘their hearts burning within them; their return journey is evidence of their excitement
- e. Hope was with them all along; they just needed eyes to see it

V. So what? The resurrection at Easter is our foundation of hope

- a. We suddenly see everything through a different lens
 - i. Even grief and suffering can take on new meaning because they fit into a larger story where victory over evil and death is the final reality
 - ii. Jesus turns our mourning into dancing
- b. The resurrected Jesus reminds us that *HE IS KING* (and we are not)
- c. Whatever you are facing in life, try to see it in light of the reality Jesus’ resurrection
- d. Once you experience the Living Water, you know you can make it home no matter how thirsty your current moment leaves you