Luke 24:13-35 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Walk to Emmaus

**13**Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25995a)] from Jerusalem, **14**and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15**While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, **16**but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17**And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25999b)] **18**Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” **19**He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26001c)] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20**and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. **21**But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26003d)] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. **22**Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, **23**and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. **24**Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” **25**Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! **26**Was it not necessary that the Messiah[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26008e)] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” **27**Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

**28**As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. **29**But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. **30**When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. **31**Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. **32**They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26014f)] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” **33**That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. **34**They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” **35**Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

I thought this would be a wonderful Scripture reading for this Sunday seeing that it is the liturgy for today on our Christian calendar.

There is probably much we can gather from this Walk to Emmaus experience of our two friends. A seven mile walk with Jesus must have been a highly interesting journey. At least they thought it was, for they said, “Were not our hearts burning while he was talking to us...?” There is a warming sensation that develops in our hearts when the Lord speaks to us. But perhaps, like our two friends traveling to Emmaus, we may not recognize that it is the “Lord” who is speaking personally to us. Do not dismiss those moments when you are moved by hearing or reading a Scripture or a message. Pay attention to what is being said. Try to retain it. Write it down. Return to it again and reread it. Reference it in the Scripture. Do not let the impression of the message or text escape you. It is likely that it is personally meant for you from the Lord.

Our foundational knowledge of Jesus comes from the Scripture as he emphatically was explaining to Cleopas and his companion. All that Jesus talked about as they walked to Emmaus is what they had already known what was in the Scripture. But notice that their problem was not that they did not know what was written about the Messiah; and it was not because they were convinced that Jesus was not the Messiah. They heard the words Jesus spoke and the deeds he performed with great power – they were convinced. The trouble they were having was that they could not see how his crucifixion played a role as the Messiah, even though the prophets were very clear about the Messiah’s suffering and death. They did not realize that his death would be the most crucial thing that the Messiah would do to redeem people back to God. They only accepted the Scripture about the Messiah partially, as Ruler and Redeemer of Israel, not realizing that it would be his death that would bring redemption. They simply did not believe all the words of the prophets: “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!”

But excitement came when they finally recognized that it was the Lord speaking to them all that time for seven miles. Who knows how many times the Lord may have been appearing to us, not necessarily in some physical from, but by the very Spirit of Christ entering our space? “Where two or three are gathered in my Name,” said the Lord, “there am I in the midst” (Matthew 18:20). Let us be aware that the Lord is still joining us in our gatherings whether we are walking to Emmaus or embarking on some other destination. May the Lord bring to us clarity of his Word. May our hearts burn intensely as he speaks. Let us not be slow of heart to believe all that the Scripture has to say about the Him. He purposely enters our company every time we meet in His Name.

Blessings,

Rev. Wilbert Gamble, Pastor