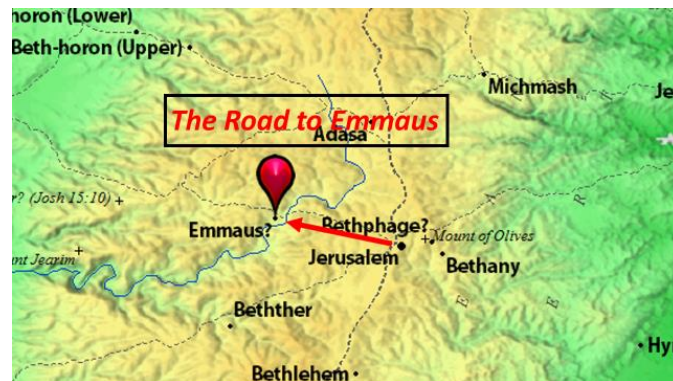


04 23 2023
The Road to Emmaus
Martinwood Christian Church

The Road to Emmaus Jesus is Always With Us

I hope all is well with you and you're having a great week. It is good to see everyone. Let's step back a few weeks and look at what happened after Easter. After our Lord rose from the dead. This is such a great time of year, and I don't want us to miss anything about "the rest of the story."



I kept thinking about the Road to Emmaus and its significance. I want to share with you an interpretation of that passage. Before I tell you the interpretation, I

John 20:30-31

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Why This Gospel Was Written

want to share with you what John says is the purpose of his writing. This tells me that by believing you will have life in His name. It also tells me that not everything about Jesus was written down. In another part of the scripture John says if all the miracles were written down that Jesus did it would fill volumes and volumes, but

but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;

Now when we get back to the Road to Emmaus and what Luke is trying to tell us with this scripture. Let's put this into perspective:

Luke 24:13-16

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

Luke 24:13-16

So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him

Two disciples are probably somewhat bewildered about what has happened. They are probably unnerved that the person they were going to follow is no longer alive, or so they think. Then, as they are walking along several things happen.

The first is that Jesus appears to them; they don't know who he is. I think this happens to us a lot too. Although Jesus is right here with us, we don't recognize him or open our minds to see him.

It happened to Mary in the tomb.

John 20:14-15

Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

John 20:15-16

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Even though Jesus said, in Matthew 28:20, He'd be with us until the end of time, I think sometimes we forget that.

They went on to tell about what had happened and that he was sentenced to death, etc. Then he told them they are foolish.

Luke 24:25-27

And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:25-27

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Even then they did not realize who he was. Isn't that kind of like what we do? We think Jesus is not with us? We think he's gone somewhere, but he's really closer than we think or realize.

I believe there are times He reveals himself to us, but our filters keep us from seeing Him and his glory. Even if you don't see him, He's there. Even if you wish he weren't or you think he's left you, He's there.

Don't take this the wrong way, but I sometimes think in our stubbornness, or not thinking we can see him or feel him, he reveals himself to us like in this passage.

Luke 24:30-32

When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them.

Luke 24:30-32

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

Jesus was right there with them the whole time, yet didn't realize His presence. What a shame. They could have found out so much more about him had they only believed; thought he actually rose from the dead.

They were so stuck on what they saw, rather than being stuck on their faith that they missed an opportunity with Him.

Don't do that!! Realize he is omnipresent; He is ALWAYS here with you. He's right here, right now. He's knocking! Will you open the door for him? Will you invite him into your lives and into your heart? He is like your father is to you; he wants the best for his children. As he stated in

Matthew 28:20

....And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

No matter what befalls you, remember our Lord and Savior is there for you. He is there to hold you up. He is there to see you through. He isn't going to abuse you, hurt you, or make you feel less than you are. He wants you to shine. He wants you to go to new heights and new glory. We just have to stop not letting him take us there.

We need to let go of the guilt that was taken away by his blood. We need to blow up those road blocks keeping us from his goodness and start accepting what he has to give.

This week make an effort to feel Christ. Take a few minutes to look around and see his goodness. I didn't say look for his goodness, I said SEE IT!! He owns it all and He wants to share with you.

Feel Christ in your life. When you look for Him, you will see him in everyone you meet. You will see Him in everything around you. He is there. Don't go another day thinking you are alone, because you're not.

Lord,

Thank you for being here for us, especially the times when we feel the most alone. Hold us up and guide us, show us your presence and let your face shine down upon us. Show us how we can change our lives to grow closer to you. Please continue to bless your ministry on 8th avenue. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.