

The Road to Emmaus

April 15, 2018

Our Savior's Way
Worshiping Sundays 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM
Pastor Bill Mann

The sermon for today focuses on the Gospel reading from Luke 24—the story of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. The sermon will be in three parts. The first part—you will meet the two disciples who met Jesus on the Road to Emmaus (but now they are older). The second part—we'll take a trip to Emmaus. The third part—we'll talk about what the Emmaus experience means for us.

PART ONE (Two disciples, as old men in a Jewish retirement home, sitting next to one another in rocking chairs—remember the Emmaus experience)

1: I'll tell you the story. I remember it like it was yesterday,

2: You don't even know what you had for lunch yesterday.

1: I do too! I had ... Why don't you tell the story?

2: Alright, I'll tell the story.

1: I hate the way you tell the story. I'll tell the story. So, there we were. It was the worst weekend of our lives.

2: Jesus had been crucified.

1: He'd been placed in the tomb.

2: And we were all in the upper room. And we were very, very scared.

1: Oh, very scared, and very nervous. Nervous as a pair of long-tailed cats in a room full of rockers.

2: Now, just to clarify—there were no cats and there were not rocking chairs.

1: I was speaking metaphorically.

2: Well, you need to be more clear. I (eye) need you to be more clear.

1: So, anyway, it was chaos inside, and then there was chaos outside.

2: And it was Mary, and she was off in the distance, and she was yelling frantically.

1: Yes, and then the doors bust open, and she's shouting at the top of her lungs, (skeptically) "He's alive! He's alive!"—Now, Mary

...

2: Sweet Mary. Salt of the earth.

1: Oh, salt of the earth, that woman. But sometimes she gets ...

2: Well, she gets a little confused.

1: To say the least. I remember, I said to you, "I bet she went to the wrong tomb."

2: (Laugh) It was just such chaos! And so we decided we'd go back to our homes.

1: Right. So, we started back home. It's about a 7 mile walk on the road to Emmaus.

2: And we were walking and talking ...

1: Talking and walking ...

2: And all of a sudden this man comes up behind us.

1: Yes, I remember. He looked at us and said, "Why the long faces?"

2: And I looked at him and said, "That's just how God made us. We can't help it. And if you don't like it ...

1: The man was speaking metaphorically.

2: Well, I needed him just to be clear. He wasn't clear!

1: We said to him ...

2: Oh, well, I said to him, I said, "Are you the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard just what has happened?"

1: And I said to him—Jesus had been crucified. We placed him in the tomb. Now we can't find his body.

2: And I went on to say that we were just horribly disappointed because we thought Jesus was the one.

1: And he says, "Why are your heads so thick? Why are your hearts so slow?"

2: And I said to him, I looked him right in the eye and said, "We're just getting older. We cannot help it. There's nothing we can d...

1: The man was speaking metaphorically.

2: I just needed him to be clear.

1: Then, he looked at us and he started at the beginning, in the books of Moses, and all through the prophets, and explained to us how the Scriptures said this would happen to the Messiah.

2: It was wonderful!

1: It was amazing! Then we came to a fork in the road ...

2: Just to be clear—it wasn't a little fork.

1: We came to a spot where the road divided. And I invited him to join us for dinner. And he says, "Yes." I think, because I told him my wife was making a cobbler.

2: She makes a great cobbler.

1: That woman can COBBLE! So, we get there and we sit down for dinner.

2: And he blessed the meal. And he broke the bread.

1: And then ...

2: I looked at you.

1: And I looked at you.

2: And we knew ...

1: Our hearts, they were burning inside us!

2: We were sitting with the Messiah!

1: We were sitting at the table with the risen Savior!

2: And, both of us ... we turned to face him .. and, um ...

1: He was gone.

2: Vanished! I never get tired of telling that story.

1: I may not remember what I had for lunch, but I'll never forget that story.

PART TWO VIDEO

PART THREE

Two men were leaving Jerusalem on their way home to Emmaus. They had been told that Jesus had risen from the dead. They wanted to believe, but their faith had been shaken. On the road they met a stranger. They told him the story of Jesus and how they had thought he was the One. The stranger talked about the Scriptures and how they pointed to the Messiah. The two disciples invited the stranger back to their home to share a meal with them. They wanted to continue the conversation. As they broke bread they finally realized who he was—It was Jesus! And then he

vanished! Right away they left. They had to tell the others. It was a long way back. But that couldn't stop them. They couldn't keep this good news to themselves. They had to go! Spread the news! Share the joy! They had met Jesus!

Now it's our turn. We can't waste another minute. You see, the message of Easter—the message of the Risen Christ is never fully ours until we have shared it with those around us. So, let's go!