

April 24, 2022

Have You Made It To Emmaus?

Luke 24:13-25

Archibald Wallace

Recently the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Travel Team sent a booklet announcing their foreign travel for 2022-2023. The front page of the brochure had a question all across it in big letters: "Have you ever been to?" and then it invited you to turn the pages and see on each new page, if the country or place they were traveling to was a place you had been or wanted to go. As I read today's Scripture about two men walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, that Travel Note came back to thought -- Have you ever been to Emmaus? The Emmaus is a village described by Luke in Luke 24:13-35?

Luke 24

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

15 As they walked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them,

16 But they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing, as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast.

18 One of them, Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth " they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;

21 But we had hoped he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And, what is more, it is the third day since all of this took place.

22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning,

23 but they didn't find his body. They came and told us they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.

24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.

26 Did not the Christ have to suffer those things and then enter his glory?"

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he was going farther.

29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together

34 and saying, "It is true, the Lord has arisen and has appeared to Simon."

35 Then the two told what had happened on the way and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

If I told you these two men on the road to Emmaus were discombobulated, would you know what I meant? You see, what they were doing was crossing their "I's" and dotting their "T's." I said it right – dotting their T's and crossing their I's. They had the D's—they were:

Discombobulated,

Dispirited,

full of Despair,

Disappointed,

Disillusioned,

Dejected,

Downcast,

Defeated.

All the things you have and become without Jesus in your life—the risen Jesus. They were stuck in D. They couldn't dot their I's or cross their T's. They had the facts, they could tell you the events of the day in Jerusalem, but it made no sense to them, so they had caught the disease called D and they had given up and they had left Jerusalem on their way to nowhere, wondering, what did all of that mean. They were toast, as the saying goes. Their leader—Jesus—was dead—that wasn't supposed to happen according to their expectations. They were defeated. They were stuck in low D.

And then along came Jesus: Unassuming, Unpretentious, Unpredictable, Un-programmable. He was Up from the grave, in a place where he was Unlikely to be, and he came Up along side the folks who were down in the D's. Before the evening was full, he had Uncovered their eyes, and Unveiled the truth of the Gospel and the promises of the prophets, and when they realized what happened, and what they had just seen, they were Up and on the road back to Jerusalem. They Understood, and they had a story to tell, these witnesses from the hinter lands called Emmaus.

So the D's met the U's of Jesus and they stopped being D's. So what did they become?

C's

They were Changed, finally they were Convinced about what had happened—Jesus was alive, raised, revealing himself, and they were Charged with Confidence, and they were Cognizant, and their Conversion was Complete. In the Crucible of history, they put in the Jesus dust they had accumulated for three years of being with him and they mixed it with the risen Lord dust from their encounter with the risen Jesus and the mix was a Cure for their Cynicism. They were Certain. Christ had come and Christ was alive and Christ had appeared to them, and they had to tell the world, starting with their brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. They were no longer disciples. They were Christians, ready to challenge the world

with the amazing truth that Jesus was alive and you could be too, forever, if you but believed and accepted Jesus as Lord and savior, and Committed your life to walking in his path.

The D's were now C's

Soon the C's would add another Letter. They would become C's and P's.

They would move from wandering the back woods of Palestine to lead lives filled with Purpose. They had something to tell the world, something they had witnessed, something that would turn the world upside down.

Their lives would no longer be meaningless; now there was so much Promise, when they finally set out to tell what they now knew.

Their Perspective had changed dramatically. They no longer questioned what had happened and what it all meant. Now they knew, and soon, so would the world, until someone they told, told me and someone told you, and you and you.

You see, they had eaten with the risen Lord, they had walked with God to Emmaus, and they now knew all that had been hidden.

D people, C people, P people. One event! One walk at the end of the day, one meal, that's all it took, and they were off.

So, what about us?

Are we willing to walk with the risen Lord?

Are we willing to invite Christ into our lives, even for just one walk, and one meal?

Are we willing to listen when Christ speaks the truth to us?

Are we willing to be changed, to commit to Christ, to drop everything in the middle of the night and go and tell what we have heard, what we have seen?

Have you had your own Emmaus moment? When the breaking of bread was enough to open your eyes and soften your heart? Have you made it Emmaus with Jesus and been changed?

Easter isn't over. Oh, maybe that first day has come and ended, but Easter is a day that can come to life in our hearts any day, every day. We can meet the risen Christ wherever, whenever, because Jesus is always and ready to come to our Emmauses and ask why we are so slow of heart to believe all that had been promised and all that has actually happened?

Like the men walking to Emmaus, Jesus knows where we are going, and he cares that we get there and that we now about him. He will come to us. He is here today, ready to talk to us, ready to reveal as much as we can absorb, ready to show us that no tomb could hold him. He is alive, and we can be too. It is not too late.

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