

The Gospel According to
Luke

“Road’s Scholars”

Chapter 24:13-35

Introduction

We most often describe our relationship with God as a “walk.” There are numerous references to walking with God in the New Testament. In the Book of Ephesians, for example, you are told to **walk worthy of the calling with which you were called** (4:1); you are told that **you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk** (4:17); you are told that you should **walk in love** (5:2); you are told that you should **walk as children of the light** (5:8); and you are told that you should **walk circumspectly** (5:18).

Those, and the many other references, to walking with God are wonderful; but there is something behind them that we often overlook. The idea of walking with God involves making *progress*, for sure; but it mostly involves *passion*.

Lovers sometimes take walks. They don’t do it to get somewhere. They do it to be with someone. The progress that they make is not measured in distance, but in devotion. They spend time getting to know one another, deepening in their love. Often they arrive at the same geographical location from which they started – but feeling very different about themselves, having made a romantic progress that puts everything in an entirely new perspective.

God loves to take walks with you. Right at the beginning of the Bible, in the third chapter of Genesis, God is described as being heard **walking in the garden** [of Eden] **in the cool of the day**, looking for Adam and Eve. I think it implies that walking along with them was a regular activity that God looked forward to.

You can only really understand the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus if you factor in an element of passion. The way Jesus hid His identity from them, and then waited until they

compelled Him to stay with them, are romantic elements in the story. Overlook the romance, and all you've got in this story is disappointment that the Bible study Jesus gave was not recorded for you. Factor in the romance and you realize that the Bible study is absent for a reason. It's absent because you are to discover it for yourself on a daily basis as you and Jesus walk along together.

We want to discover the passion of walking with the Lord. We'll organize our thoughts around two questions: #1 Is Your Walk With Jesus Restraining You?, and #2 Is Your Want For Jesus Constraining Him?

#1 Is Your Walk With Jesus Restraining You? (v13-27)

Cleopas was one of the travelers; the other may have been his wife. We learn in the Gospel of John that her name was Mary (John 19:25). There is some evidence, both biblical and traditional, that Cleopas was the brother of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. It's not overly important, but it might have been Uncle Cleo & Aunt Mary that Jesus appeared to on their way home to Emmaus.

The thing that grabs you is that they did not recognize Jesus. **Their eyes were restrained** means that somehow supernaturally they were prevented from recognizing that it was the risen Lord walking and talking with them. Scholars suggest a multitude of reasons why their eyes were restrained. For me, it comes down to these two reasons:

1. First: Jesus has a flair for romantic drama.
2. Second: It was important that they first 'see' Jesus in the Scriptures before they saw Him in person. It's a reminder to us that we are to base things on the written Word, rather than on our experiences – as wonderful as they may be.

We're going to use their 7-mile walk to compare our own daily walk with the Lord.

Luke 24:13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

Luke 24:15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

Luke 24:16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

They talked together... conversed and reasoned. It seems basic, but let's look at each of these activities:

1. **Talked together** implies fellowship with other believers.
2. **Conversed** indicates a mutual activity. It speaks to us of ministering one-to-another with the abilities and gifts God has granted.
3. **Reasoned** speaks of remaining grounded in the Scriptures as our source of information about the Lord.

Jesus was certainly the topic of their conversation and reasoning from Scripture as they talked together. But He was also missing from their walk, until He joined Himself to them; and even then, they didn't recognize Him. It's to show us that we can be walking along as believers, in fellowship, ministering to one another, basing everything on God's Word – **but still be missing Jesus**.

Luke 24:17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

Luke 24:18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

Ask yourself this question: As you walk with the Lord, are you sad? Honest believers will sometimes answer, "Yes." Maybe you're not sad today; maybe you're not sad all the time. When you're sad, you must believe that the Lord is right there with you. Your circumstances may make it hard for you to recognize Him; but He is most assuredly there.

Luke 24:19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

Luke 24:20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

Luke 24:21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

Luke 24:22 Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

Luke 24:23 When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

Luke 24:24 And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

They had the Word of God, and witnesses, that Jesus had risen from the dead:

1. The Word of God is summarized in their reference to **the third day since these things have happened**. More than once the Lord had told His followers He would be **condemned to death and crucified**, but be raised the **third day**.
2. The witnesses of His resurrection included angels, women, and at least two of the apostles – Peter and John.

Still, they did not believe. Perhaps they were restrained in seeing Jesus because of their expectations of who He was and what they wanted Him to do. They knew Him as a **Prophet mighty in deed and word**; they expected Him to politically **redeem** Israel out of the control of the Romans.

They had a rather low view of who Jesus was and what He came to accomplish! He was not another of their prophets; He was the sinless Son of God. He did not come to lead a political upheaval, but to redeem the lost souls of men and women.

There's a sense in which you can only be disappointed with Jesus if you misunderstand who He is and why He came. On a personal level, He's the One who took your place as Substitute and Sacrifice on the Cross at Calvary. He's the One who saved you from death and Hell; Who fills you with His Spirit; Who is building your home in Heaven; Who will return to take you there. He's the One who, in the mean time, is at work changing you day-by-day to become what you were created to be. Our problem is that the tools He uses are often in categories we dislike: Affliction and suffering. But we are to count it all joy because of Who He is and what He is doing.

Luke 24:25 Then He said to them, **“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!**

Luke 24:26 **Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”**

Uncle Cleopas and Aunt Mary believed a lot; but they did not believe **all that the prophets** [had] **spoken**. They knew their Scriptures; but they viewed the Bible through their own cultural and intellectual filters. They grew-up believing in a conquering Messiah Who would deliver them from their national enemies and re-establish Israel as an earthly kingdom. They believed in the **glory** parts of the Old Testament – but *not* the suffering of the Messiah.

Always be on guard against your own culture and your own conclusions. We need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the Word of God in ways that overcome our prejudices and preconceptions.

[Luke 24:27](#) And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

It was the greatest Bible study ever delivered! Jesus undoubtedly told them that He was there, in Genesis, creating the universe; that He was the promised Seed of the woman in the Garden of Eden Who would crush the serpent's head, but be bruised in the process; that when Abraham was instructed to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah it was a type of God the Father sacrificing His only begotten Son, Jesus, on the Cross at the exact same spot; that the Passover lambs that were slain in Egypt and for centuries afterward were typical of Himself as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. He may have described how each of the sacrifices in the Tabernacle represented Him; or how each piece of furniture in to Tabernacle pointed to Him. Jesus probably reminded them that the words He spoke from the Cross, **My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?**, were a quote from Psalm 22 – which perfectly predicted His death by crucifixion some 400 years before it occurred. He undoubtedly mentioned Isaiah 53 and its predictions of the suffering Savior. We could go on-and-on.

I, too, wish we had the text of this study. But what I find fascinating is this: If you regularly attend a Bible-teaching Church, you **do** hear this study! And it's as if Jesus Himself is talking to you, because it is God the Holy Spirit within you Who is teaching you.

Note two things about the Lord's approach to Bible study:

1. First, it was systematic. He went through the Scriptures.
2. Second, He focused His study on finding Himself on every page.

It is all too possible to go through the Bible systematically; to be solid in our Bible study; but miss seeing Jesus as He is revealed to us. It's not that we miss some of the types or pictures of Jesus. It's that we are studying the Scriptures as scholars first, and as lovers second – or not at all.

Whole systems of Bible doctrine exist that seriously impugn the nature and character of God because they are based solely on logic rather than love. Episodes like the two on the road to Emmaus should snap us back to the reality of our Lord's romance with us.

Two disciples, walking along with Jesus – but they were restrained from seeing Him. Am I being restrained? Are you being restrained? It's an important question to ask ourselves. Our expectations (or lack of them); our culture; our prejudices; our preconceptions. All of these and more can restrain us from seeing the Lord. His solution is to reinvigorate our systematic Bible study so that we are looking for Him on every page.

You will know you've been reinvigorated when, instead of being restrained, you begin to constrain the Lord.

#2 Is Your Want For Jesus Constraining Him? (v28-35)

Remember: This is a romantic story. Lovers understand what happened next, as Jesus would have gone on further, but the two constrained Him to stay.

Luke 24:28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.

Luke 24:29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

In a moment we will read that their hearts were burning within them as Jesus talked on the road. Having not seen Him, they loved Him! Jesus kindled their love and thus they constrained Him to remain with them.

Jesus said He would never leave you or forsake you. But He must be constrained if you are to experience His presence. He is portrayed as your Bridegroom, and you as His bride. Eliminate this passionate element and your walk will become stale. He remains with you; but you are not realizing it. Eventually He will say something like, **Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.**

Luke 24:30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them.

Luke 24:31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

This, by the way, was not communion. They were simply sharing a meal. There was something about the way Jesus handled the bread, blessing it and breaking it, that was unmistakable.

It's like that with lovers. Certain very common behaviors are done in ways that become endearing. Do you remember this line in a Beatles song: *Something in the way she moves attracts me like no other lover.* The song goes on to mention other common activities that become uncommon when you're in love.

The idea here is the same, only it's a far deeper romance because it is Jesus Who loves you, and it's with an everlasting love.

Jesus **vanished from their sight.** They would see Him again. But better than seeing Him: He would ascend into Heaven and send the Holy Spirit to live within them, and among them. **He would be more present with them than ever before.**

Luke 24:32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together,

They didn't finish their meal. They didn't clean-up after themselves. It was difficult and extremely dangerous to travel so great a distance after dark. **Love makes you do strange things!**

Luke 24:33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together,

Luke 24:34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

Luke 24:35 And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Before Cleopas and Mary could give their report, the other disciples blurted-out encounters of their own. All of them talked only about Jesus. It was a sure sign of their love.

All of this happened because they **constrained** Jesus to stay with them. Am I constraining Him? Are you constraining Him? It's another important question we should constantly ask of ourselves.

Applying the Word...

If you are a Christian, and your love has grown cold, Jesus would say to you what He said to the Church at Ephesus: Remember, repent, and do the first works.

If you are not yet a believer... There's a verse in Revelation that describes Jesus knocking on the door, seeking to come in and dine with you. Invite Him in and you will recognize Him by His nail-scarred hands.