

The Road to Emmaus

Luke 24

A straight forward re-enactment of one of the recorded resurrection appearances of Jesus, that of him joining two disciples as they walk the road from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus.

[Two disciples, Cleopas and Disciple 2, walk slowly on to stage, looking dejected. Cleopas has a stone in his shoe and is shaking his leg trying to move it. They stop walking while he takes his shoe off to tip out stone.]

Cleopas: I can't believe, I can't take it in. I was so sure Jesus was the one who was going to save us.

Disciple 2: He was...

Cleopas: He can't have been. If he was he wouldn't have died.

Disciple 2: The women don't think he is dead

Cleopas: The women have lost the plot. I don't blame them – it's the stress of the situation. You think you've met the Messiah, he makes all these promises, and then gets put to death in front of you.

[Jesus joins them]

Jesus: What are you two talking about?

Disciple 2: There's only one thing in the news this week – Jesus

Jesus: Who?

Cleopas: Have you been out of the country?

Jesus: You could say that

Disciple 2: Jesus of Nazareth. He was a mighty man of God. He could heal people and work all kinds of miracles like you've never seen before. He talked about the kingdom of God so powerfully you felt you could reach out and touch it.

Cleopas: But our Chief Priests and rulers handed him over to the Romans to crucify him. *[putting shoe back on, walking slowly forwards]*

Disciple 2: We thought he was the one who was going to save Israel

Cleopas: What's more, all this happened three days ago, but this morning some of our women say that when they got to his tomb it was empty and an angel told them Jesus was alive again!

[all stop walking to talk]

Disciple 2: Which sounded like nonsense, but Peter and John went to check it out anyway and found the tomb was empty, as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus.

Cleopas: It's all very confusing! We don't know what to think!

Jesus: You are slow on the up-take! It's not really confusing, if only you'd look at it through the eyes of faith. The Lord's prophets since Moses' time have been explaining what will happen.

Disciple 2: Have they?

Jesus: Think of the blood of the lamb saving you at Passover; think of Moses lifting up his staff; who had a virgin birth, born in Bethlehem, in the line of David? Zechariah even said he will ride in on a colt – remember Palm Sunday? Do you remember what Jesus himself said about the third day? How the temple will be rebuilt?

Cleopas: This is as far as we are going. It's getting late, you shouldn't travel on in the dark. Stay with us.

Disciple 2: Yes, sit and eat with us

[the disciples sit down, and Jesus joins them. Jesus breaks the bread and passes it to them]

Jesus: Thank you Father for this bread...

Cleopas and Disciple 2: Jesus!

[Cleopas and Disciple 2 freeze - exit Jesus]

Cleopas: We should get back to Jerusalem and tell the others!

[Joanna comes on to stage, Cleopas and Disciple 2 go up to her, both speaking fast, excited]

Disciple 2: You were right! You're not mad! Jesus has risen! We met him on the road to Emmaus...

Cleopas: Not that we knew it was him...

Disciple 2: Though our hearts were racing as he spoke to us...

Cleopas: And then he broke the bread and....

[Jesus appears – makes them all jump]

Jesus: Peace be with you. Don't be afraid, I'm not a ghost, I'm really here. Touch me and see.

[Cleopas and Disciple 2 touch him. Joanna takes his hand, kisses his wound, falls to her knees]

Joanna: Lord!

Jesus: As the Father sent me to bring people back to him, I am now going to send you out, in the power of the Holy Spirit.