

Connecting With the Risen Jesus Along the Road Luke 24:13-49

Jesus seeks to connect with us on our journey:

- When we lack clear direction. Luke 24:13

And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

- When we experience discouragement. Luke 24:17

And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad.

- When we are disillusioned with life and our future. Luke 24:16, 21-23

Vs. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him....21-23 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened." But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.

His followers returned to Jerusalem and gathered together with others to know the resurrected Christ. Jesus joined them and life became better together:

- Look to Christ and fully examine His life. Luke 24:29-31, 36-40

While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

- Learn from Christ to know His truth. Luke 24:44-47

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

- Be led by Christ and experience His blessing. Luke 24:50-53

And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshipping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God.

Digging Deeper

It is interesting that of all the stories Luke could have recorded about those that witnessed the resurrected Jesus, he chose these two people. They had an interest in spiritual things and were intrigued by Jesus and His ministry. But after the crucifixion and resurrection, when it seemed Jesus had failed in their eyes, they were heading away from Jerusalem with a sense of defeat. At that moment, their expectations of what Jesus would do were not met. They felt hopeless, sad and disillusioned. And, they felt all alone as they wandered down that road to Emmaus.

Some people today struggle with the same areas as those two did. For example, the church is one area in which some younger people are disillusioned. God and the church are irrelevant to them. Just as the two men on the road in Luke 24 left Jerusalem (the spiritual hub) behind, many have left God and His church behind today. David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group that researches why people leave the church, has found the following reasons many are disillusioned today:

- Church is a creativity killer. It lacks imaginative risk taking.
- Church is shallow, boring, offering platitudes and clichés that lack authenticity.
- Some people believe the church offers no sense of calling. People’s gifts and abilities are not integrated into the church.
- The church tends to be anti-science where faith and science are incompatible.
- The church is repressive, all the rules and regulations hold them down, especially sexual mores.
- The church is exclusive rather than open-minded and tolerant.
- The church is not a place that allows doubts to be expressed or challenging questions to be asked.
- Too many in the church do not live what they say they believe. Hypocrites remain a problem.

Calvary Church is not perfect, but we attempt to understand and overcome these perceptions, by revealing how Jesus and His church are relevant to our lives today. Just as Jesus sought to connect with His followers in today’s passage, He is still seeking all of us today— especially those disillusioned and disappointed with God and His church.

In Luke 24:36-40, Jesus asked the travelers to inspect His life and make sure they really know who He is and what He offers to those who will believe in Him. Then He taught them His truth so they can really understand His purpose in the world.

Think about this question: *“If what you believe is wrong, wouldn’t you want to know?”* Jesus seeks us, so we can fully know what is true and right from God. Jesus came to connect us with God the Father. And He came to show us a new way to do life with God and each other through the truth of Scripture and the work of the Spirit. We are not promised that it will be easy, but we are promised that Jesus will be with us through it all as we trust in Him and He will provide what we need each step along the way. Will you follow Him?

Next Steps:

1. Come to the Alpha Course to explore the big questions of life together.

If you would like to know more on how to connect and have a relationship with the living Jesus, please join us for the Alpha Course, which begins Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 pm. We invite challenging questions and even doubts as we explore what it means to connect with Jesus. Please join us for a meal and then open discussions where all questions are welcomed.

Learn more at calvarylife.org/alpha

2. Explore helpful resources to learn more and grow in your faith.

Read “The Way to Connect with God” in the chair rack or visit calvarylife.org/jesus

Find one of these great books in our Corner Bookstore to help answer essential questions about the truth of Jesus:

- *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell
- *A Case for Christ and A Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel
- *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis

3. Join us again next Sunday for our series “Better Together.”

We would love for you to experience the full vitality of new life found in Jesus, just as the two men on the road to Emmaus did after they learned from God’s Word together about Jesus’ purpose and plan. Luke recorded their changed lives with these words in Luke 24:52-53: *“And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God.”* Discover more about Sundays at Calvary at calvarylife.org/sunday