

The Road To Emmaus

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Luke 24 shares the wonderful, true story of Jesus being raised from the dead. It tells of several groups of people who saw Him after He was risen.

One of these was a group of two disciples who were walking from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus. The story is recorded in verses 13-35 of Luke 24, and tells how Jesus joined their walk and discussion. As it got late, they invited Him to dine and rest with them, and they finally realized it was Jesus in breaking of bread.

This story paints a beautiful picture of the relationship we can have with Jesus Christ today, and with our Father in Heaven through Jesus. And it is all made possible by Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

In a very real sense we can walk with Jesus today, study with Him, and break bread with him just as they did on the Emmaus road.

We can walk with Jesus in the sense of fellowship, and going the same direction as Him. We can study with Jesus the same fulfilled prophecies they did that day, as well as see that the New Testament scriptures were delivered by Jesus. And we can break bread with Jesus by expressing our thanksgiving for the food and blessings He supplies, and in a very special way in our Communion service.

Walking With Jesus

Let's look first at walking with Jesus. Luke 24:13-15, *"And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them."*

We can walk with Jesus today, as well, by which I mean that we can have fellowship with Him, and walk in the same direction as Him to the same destination. This is a blessing given to us in the Christian age, now that He is risen from the dead. Think of the many songs that express this truth.

“Footprints of Jesus”, “I Walk With The King”, and “Stepping In The Light” just to name a few.

We have fellowship with Jesus in several ways. First of all there is fellowship with Jesus through His Word, I John 1:3, where the apostle John writes, *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”* Do you see? The apostles and other early writers were eyewitnesses of Jesus. They preached and wrote God’s Word, as Jesus Himself delivered it to them. Through their word we can have fellowship with them, and with Jesus who gave it.

In Matt. 18:20 we see that we have fellowship with Jesus by having fellowship with each other. *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”* We have fellowship with Him through faith, Eph. 3:17, *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,”*. We have fellowship with Him through obedience, John 14:23, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”* We have fellowship with Jesus when we suffer with Him, Phil. 3:10, *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”*.

These scriptures show that to walk with Jesus in fellowship, we must walk in the same direction. Amos 3:3, *“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”* There can be no fellowship, no walk with Jesus if we insist on going our own way, as we read in 1 John 1:5-7, *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

It then follows that if we do go in the same direction as Jesus, we can expect to arrive at the same destination. John 14:6, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* Verses 2-3, *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would*

have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” What an exciting promise!

Studying With Jesus

As the two disciples were walking with Jesus, before they even realized it was Him, they were talking about the recent events. They were discussing how Jesus had been crucified, and they didn't understand it, because they expected different things. In verses 25-27 of Luke 24 Jesus began to study with them and reveal the many prophecies to them that He fulfilled, *“Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”*

We can study with Jesus as well, in the sense that we can study these same prophecies, and see that Jesus fulfilled them, and proclaim it to the world. We can see further that Jesus delivered the New Testament scriptures to the world, through His apostles.

Jesus declared many times that the words He was giving were from God. Looking at just one example, please turn to John 12:49-50, where Jesus said, *“I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”*

Jesus gave God's Word to the world through His apostles, as again we can see in many scriptures. Let's look to John 17:6-8, where Jesus said, in a prayer to God, *“I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.”* The

apostles not only preached this word, but wrote it down, so that we have it today, 1 Cor. 14:37, *“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”*

Breaking Bread With Jesus

In continuing the story we see the two disciples breaking bread with Jesus in Luke 24:28-31, *“And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.”*

Let’s look at two ways we can break bread with Jesus today.

First of all, let’s understand that we break bread with Him in a spiritual way when we express our thanksgiving to God through Jesus for the food and other blessings He provides. It is actually a three-step process: to acknowledge His blessings, be thankful for them, and express our thanksgiving to him.

In Phil. 4:19 we see the apostle Paul acknowledge the provision of God for us through Jesus, *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* In I Tim. 4:4-5 we see the other two steps, being thankful and expressing it in prayer, *“For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”*

The second, very special, way we break bread with Jesus is in the Communion service. 1 Cor. 10:16, *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”* We do so in thankful memory of how Jesus gave His life on Calvary’s cross on our behalf, 1 Cor. 11:23-26, *“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and*

said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

So we see that this story does indeed paint us a picture of the relationship we can each have with Jesus as Christians. Our fellowship with Him is spiritual instead of physical, but has the same elements.

We can walk with Jesus, in the sense of fellowship, and going the same direction to the same destination. We can study with Jesus, in the sense of seeing the prophecies that He fulfilled, and studying the New Testament scriptures that He delivered. And we can break bread with Him, when we express our thanks to God through Jesus for the food He gives us, and when we remember in the Communion service Christ's loving sacrifice for us on the cross.

Let's close with Gal. 2:20, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*"

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford

