

**April 19, 2020**  
**Walking with Jesus**

Scripture reading: Luke 24:13-35

Text: “As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them” (Luke 24:15 NIV).

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Two of Jesus’ disciples traveled on the road to Emmaus. They left the downhearted and confused group of disciples who were afraid and confused over the Good Friday events. The Master they loved and followed had been horribly put to death on a cross. Only a week before, their hopes had risen so high when the excited crowd welcomed their Lord and new King to Jerusalem waving palm branches and shouting, “*Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*” (Jn.12:13) But now everything has changed since Jesus lay dead in a sealed tomb. Their hopes were gone and their dream was over. Even the report of the women that Christ’s tomb was empty didn’t raise their spirits. It only confused them even more.

So the two sad and disappointed disciples travelled with these thoughts and feelings in their hearts on the road to Emmaus. As they were walking, suddenly a stranger joined them and asked them what they were discussing. They poured out their hearts and told their story to someone who seemed willing to listen. They told the stranger all about their high hope and how it dissolved. “*We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel*” (v.21), said the two disappointed disciples.

Human hope can be so fragile and when it withers it is difficult to revive. There are many people who give up easily because despair and discouragement have sucked the last bit of hope out of their lives. I think we all have been in hopeless situations when we had the questions in mind: “*How should I proceed with my life? Is there a way out?*”

However, when disappointment, doubt, and despair fill our lives Jesus the unseen “stranger” walks alongside us, He listens to us and if we are willing to hear His voice He reveals Himself to us.

Jesus did the same thing to Cleopas and his friend when they were saddened and confused. He helped them and restored their trust and hope. *How did Christ do it?* He pointed them to the Holy Scriptures. “*Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all Scriptures concerning himself*” (v.27).

The two-hour walk to Emmaus must have seemed like five minutes as they talked about the Word of God. The disappointment and sorrow the two disciples felt in their hearts began to change into understanding and hope as the “stranger” explained that the Messiah’s death was God’s sovereign plan of salvation for the sin of humankind.

Jesus walks with us, just as He walked with the two disciples. He points us to the promises of God’s Word and tells us again and again that we are His dearly beloved children and that He will stand by us in every situation of our lives and He turns our despair into hope.

As they approached Emmaus the two disciples asked the “stranger” to stay with them for the night. So He stayed. At the evening meal Christ took the bread, gave thanks, then broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly their eyes were opened and they recognized who the stranger was. It was their Master and Lord, raised from the dead.

Now they realized why a change had come over them as they walked on the road. They now knew why their disappointed hearts had been changed to hearts filled with hope and renewed faith. Jesus revealed Himself to them through His Word and the sacrament. After their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, He immediately disappeared from their sight.

I can imagine Cleopas and his friend standing in amazement, perhaps in great joy, asking each other, "*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*" (v.32) This was the most wonderful walk in their whole lives to Emmaus. They had experienced something of the grace and love of God. However, as soon as Jesus revealed Himself to them, He disappeared from their sight, but He has not gone forever. Christ is still visible to those who have the eyes of faith.

The road to Emmaus is a symbol of the Christian life. This story is about meeting a "stranger", hearing His words, and having a close relationship with Him. This story enables us to see that the risen Lord gives hope and joy when all we see is disappointment, discouragement, and despair.

If you walk the "Emmaus road" or you will in the future just remember that you are not walking alone. The unseen "stranger", the risen Jesus walks it with you!

Now I would like to read a poem which beautifully tells us how the Lord Jesus walks with us on this path of life. The title is: **Footprints**.

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.  
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.  
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only.  
This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering  
from anguish, sorrow or defeat,  
I could see only one set of footprints,

so I said to the Lord,  
"You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have  
noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in  
the sand.

Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,  
"The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child,  
is when I carried you."<sup>1</sup>

When our Emmaus road is filled with difficulties, pain, and trials let us walk it with Jesus, and as we walk with Him our road becomes a great and glorious highway of companionship, conversation, faith, and hope. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai  
Pastor

<sup>1</sup> *Footprints written by Mary Stevenson*  
[www.footprints-in-the-sand.com](http://www.footprints-in-the-sand.com), [www.wowzone.com/fprints.htm](http://www.wowzone.com/fprints.htm)