

The Emmaus Road a Perplexing Sunday on the road to Pentecost

"I once forgot how to throw a boomerang, but then it came back to me."

"I have a photographic memory, just forgot to load the film." Today we will talk about remembering.

We will talk about the discussion of the disciples on the road to Emmaus after Jesus' resurrection. The resurrection was not yet known to them. But the bigger picture I would like you to think about is the discussion with Jesus on the way to Pentecost. Pentecost was Jesus' next step in the life of His disciples. As we progress from the resurrection toward Pentecost in our calendar, let us be reminded of the command to be filled with the Spirit by addressing each other with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody and giving thanks.

Shortly before His crucifixion Jesus told the story of profitable and unprofitable servants and that He would come in His glory with angels and sit on His throne of glory.

Matt 25:29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 31 *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. Skip on 15 verses to the next chapter. Matt 26:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."*

From the King of glory to crucified in 15 verses. How confusing must that have been? Then the disciples wake up on Sunday morning and go to the tomb.

*Luke 23:55 And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. Luke 24:1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen! **Remember** how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'*

Remember. Two men in shining garments saying "remember." Remember the times Jesus had said He would rise on the third day.

Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Matt 17:22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Matt 20:18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." 20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." 22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Does it seem as if things are not connecting? Jesus says His kingship looks like mocking and scourging and crucifixion. And mom wants them to go to that throne. Mom was not seeing the full picture.

Did you ever hear something that did not make sense and then you suddenly saw the fuller picture and you saw more clearly. It happens that way when we learn math, when we learn relationships, even our own sinfulness. We think, how did I get this way, then we see our path into sin and our path out. These two disciples did not yet see it.

Later in the day of the resurrection we pick up the story. *Luke 24:13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem (about a 3 hour journey). 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. 17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" 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?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?"*

That is like Jesus to ask us a question. What things? What is consuming your mind right now? What is dominating your emotions right now? What perplexing quandary is unsolved in your mind right now? I am not asking these questions, but Jesus is the one asking, "What things?"

Luke 24:19 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, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 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. 22 Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. 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. 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."

Who did see Jesus? *John 20:16-18, Mark 16:9* explains that Jesus was seen, but the eleven disciples did not believe. *He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.*

The disciples apparently did not believe Mary Magdalene.

Back to the Emmaus Road, *Luke 24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. The website has a link to 351 prophecies of Jesus which is probably incomplete.

Let's imagine the conversation on the road to Emmaus. I think what I am about to share had similarities because these words had already been spoken. Let me put it as Jesus speaking. These are not the exact words Jesus spoke but I believe the 3 hours conversation was like this and more.

1. Serpent lifted up in the wilderness

You have read Numbers and the section that says: *Num 21: 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall*

live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Remember John’s story of the night the Teacher said to Nicodemus (John 3: 14) *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

He was lifted up just as He told you, remember, *they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”*

2. Elijah

Each Passover we set a dish for Elijah. Are you not awaiting Elijah as the scribes say that Elijah must come first? In it is written in the book of Malachi. *Mal 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”*

Did Elijah come? Remember what the teacher said. (Matt 17:11) *“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”* Remember that you disciples understood that He spoke of John the Baptist.

3. John’s proclamation, voice of one calling in the wilderness

Regarding John, (Matt 3:3 Isa 40:3) Isaiah spoke of him, saying *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ”* And John himself took this scripture as prophetic of him.

4. The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until. (Matt 22:44 Ps 110:1)

Do you recall that David spoke of the teacher as far more than a teacher. In the book of Psalms David wrote, *The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”* The teacher confounded the Pharisees by saying “If David then calls Messiah ‘Lord,’ how is Messiah David’s Son?” The teachers of the Law understood that He was laying claim to be the Messiah and God. They called it blasphemous and had Him crucified.

5. Forgiveness of sins

The teacher (Matt 9:5-6) claimed to forgive sins when He said, which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”

Yet hearts were so dull that they did not believe Isaiah’s (53:11-12) description of the Messiah. *Isaiah 53:11-12 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.* This is why He told you, *they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify.* He was bearing your iniquities.

6. Is this the Messiah

I know this is hard to believe, but even John the Baptist asked (Matt 11:3) *“Are you really the one we are waiting for, or shall we keep on looking?”* Even John the Baptist needed confirmation that the teacher was the Messiah. Remember how Jesus answered and said to John’s disciples, *Luke 7:22 “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”*

John understood because of Isaiah's words. (*Isaiah 53:4*) *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. And again (Isaiah 29:18-19) In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. 19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel. And again (Isaiah 35:2-6) They shall see the glory of the Lord, The excellency of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.* You see, the vengeance of God is to destroy the works of the Devil and save us. The teacher was the Messiah and He has come to save you.

7. Matthew

(This part was written by Matt and not part of the dialogue) Matt 12:18-19 Isa 42:1-2
When you see Matthew remind him of this section from Isaiah, *Isa 42:1-2 "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. 19 He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. 20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; 21 And in His name Gentiles will trust."* The prophets are saying that this day is a day of justice and victory.

8. Three Days

Now did you said it had been three days? Did the Master say He would be raised the third day? And what three day story did He say would be the sign? Something about a big fish. Yes. *Jon 1:17 And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.* Did not the one you call Messiah say, Matt 12:39-40 *"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.* Did Jonah stay in the fish? No, he came out fully alive. Did the Messiah stay in the tomb?

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

31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 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?" 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, (7 miles in the dark) and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 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.

Jesus asks you today, What things?

He says to you remember who He is?

Look at Him and be forgiven and live.

Prepare the way of the Lord

Call Him Lord over all your life

He is your only salvation in every area of your life, He sends forth justice to victory.

Will you believe? Will you remember who He is?