



Walk to Emmaus

FaithBuilder 4 | Lesson 26 | Easter

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

See *Jesus Christ Appears on the Road to Emmaus* at bitly.com/MCEmmaus (3min 32sec).

2. Read

Read the story of the walk to Emmaus from Luke 24. pp. 1-2

3. Discuss

How is the Lord walking with us? What conversation do we have with Him? p.2

New Church Concept

Seeing the Lord

The Lord comes into sight through good, but not through truth devoid of good; for 'bread' means the good of love. From these and many other places it is clear that 'seeing' in the internal sense means faith received from the Lord, for no other faith exists which is truly faith except faith which comes from the Lord. This is also the faith that enables a person to see, that is, to believe. *Arcana Coelestia* 3863.14

Video

Watch *Jesus Christ Appears on the Road to Emmaus* (3min 32sec) at bitly.com/MCEmmaus. (Enter bitly link in the browser bar at the top of your screen.)

Read

The video we just watched gives us the words spoken by the Lord and two of His disciples but omits some details given in the Word. Read the story, paying attention to the identity of the disciples who walked with the Lord, and what He says in answer to their sadness.

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

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?"

And He said to them, "What things?"

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, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 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. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 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."

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 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.

Breaking Bread

The inner meaning of the disciples' eyes being opened so that they recognized the Lord when the Lord broke the bread and gave it to them (Luke 24:29-31) is clear when one knows that in the spiritual world 'breaking the bread and giving it to them' means instructing them in the good and truth of faith, by means of which the Lord is seen. See *Arcana Coelestia* 9412:6

In the Ancient Church bread was broken when it was given to another, and this action meant the sharing of what was one's own and the passing of good from oneself to another....Thus it meant making love mutual. For when someone breaks bread and gives it to another he is sharing with him what is his own. Or when a loaf is broken and shared among many, the single loaf becomes one shared mutually by all, and all are consequently joined together through charity. See *Arcana Coelestia* 5405

"Bread" means the Lord in relation to Divine good, and "to eat it" symbolizes appropriation and conjunction. When the Lord manifested Himself to the disciples after His death, He broke bread and gave to them, and their eyes were opened and they knew Him (Luke 24:30, 31). "To eat bread" given by the Lord symbolizes conjunction with Him. Enlightened by this the disciples knew Him. In the Word, "to break bread" symbolizes to communicate one's good to another. See *Apocalypse Explained* 617.21

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. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

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?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. Luke 24:13-35

Discuss

Choose questions to discuss.

1. Of the two disciples in this story, only Cleopas is named. He is not mentioned anywhere else in the New Testament. Although there are theories about his identity nothing is really known about him. So in a sense we know nothing about the men, making it easier to picture ourselves walking with Jesus on the way to Emmaus. What would you ask the Lord if you had the opportunity to walk with Him?
2. Many wish they could know what Jesus said to the disciples. What clues do we have about what He said? Why might it be important for us *not* to specifically know what He said?
3. Jesus had told his disciples what would happen to Him: "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." (Matthew 12:40) But they seemed confused by the events of the crucifixion and what followed. What were they expecting? How might their expectations have made it difficult for them to see the Lord?
4. What might keep you from recognizing the Lord, even when He's with you?
5. Have you ever encountered God in a place where you least expected to see Him?
6. The Lord talks to us in His Word. What might prevent us from hearing what He's saying?
7. The disciples recognized the Lord when they broke bread (ate) with Him. Look at the passages on the right. Why could they recognize Him then, and not before?
8. The Lord established the Holy Supper, the act of breaking bread with Him. What does this story teach about the importance of this act? (See right.)