

Take your time reading this passage from the bible. Ask God to help you hear.

Luke 24:13-16, 28-32

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

(NIV)



Food for Thought

The Road to Emmaus story is related by Luke, who specialises in recording first-hand accounts. The little details, such as their standing still at Jesus' question and the almost face-palm reaction in verse 32, paint a richly-coloured picture of a deeply personal encounter with the risen Christ.

Late in the afternoon of Easter Day, Jesus joins two sorrowful and disappointed disciples, Cleopas and probably his wife. When Jesus asks them about the news from Jerusalem, they describe Jesus' ministry, his death and the report of his resurrection. Interestingly, they do not comment on whether they believe what the women had told them that morning.

Q: Do you think that the disciples believed the news? Would you have believed it?

Jesus replies by taking them back through all the Law and the Prophets to show how his death was not some dreadful disaster, but the eternal plan, to which the whole of the Old Testament pointed. The disciples later recalled that their hearts were burning within them as they heard him speak.

Q: What do you think they meant by this, and why do you think it happened? Why did they not understand before?

It's approaching evening on Easter Sunday, and the two disciples invite Jesus to spend the night at their home. More than invite, they insist, saying that it's too late to travel further.

Q: Do you think it really was too late to keep travelling, or was that a polite excuse? Why were they so insistent? Do you think Jesus would have stayed even if they had not asked?

After the meal, the disciples travel back the seven miles to Jerusalem and find a large group of disciples assembled together, discussing how Jesus had appeared to Peter. They tell them excitedly how they had recognised Jesus as he broke the bread.

Q: What other events does broken bread refer to? Why do you think they only recognised Jesus at that time? How do we recognise Jesus in the breaking of the bread?

For many of us, this story of the road to Emmaus tells the story of our own journey. We walk with God but do not recognise his presence. Then in the middle of confusion comes a moment of clarity. All the pieces finally drop into place and we see God's hand. When we look back, we wonder how we didn't spot it before.

Q: Can you think of times in your life when this has happened, when the penny dropped?