

The Hidden Voice of Jesus

Before Jesus met with his disciples, He had two other appearances. One of them was to some followers who were traveling on a road that led to Emmaus

On the Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-33

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

The exact location of Emmaus is not known, but many believe that it is about 18 miles from Jerusalem. Even though we have some scholarly indications of the locality of Emmaus, we do not know exact location of the disciples encounter with Jesus. This "elusiveness" some believe could lend to a reality that Emmaus could be any place and every time we meet Jesus on our Journey. So what happens on this Journey?

15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

When we read this passage, our first assumption is that the two disciples that encounter the unknown Jesus were men, however many now believe that they may have been a husband and wife traveling together. Cleopas appears in John 19:25 when the three Marys stayed beside Jesus during his last hours. "Mary, Mary Magdalene and Mary the wife of Clopas. Clopas and Cleophas are the same people.

In this encounter Jesus voice is eclipsed by their grief, Doubt and anguish. They want to believe the end, had not come for Jesus, but the fact they were on the road out of the city indicates they could not believe.

- In every post resurrection story, Jesus is not initially recognized.

The story doesn't end here though;

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Even though they didn't recognize Jesus, He still went on the Journey with them.

- Jesus comes even in our darkest moments
- Jesus speaks to us in that time
- Jesus journeys with us even when we have abandoned hope.

Jesus' conversation with the disciples is in part a list of questions. He still does that with us in prayer and scripture.

Jesus' Voice changes us.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 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.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Jesus's conversations with them reminding them of what scriptures had said, probably using the sights they were seeing while they were walking and in the breaking of the bread, Jesus slowly became known to the travelers.

What is your moment of recognition of Jesus & Jesus' voice?

- Worship
- Scripture
- Conversation with others
- Communion

32 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?"

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According to his journal,[7] Wesley found that his enthusiastic gospel message had been rejected by his Anglican brothers. Heavy-hearted, he reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening in a Moravian chapel on Aldersgate Street in London.[8] It was there, while someone was reading from Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, that he felt that his heart was "strangely warmed".[7] He describes it as:

I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.[2][7]

What Next?

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Comprehending the story is not the same as recognizing Jesus.

- They suddenly realized that it was Jesus, their grief, doubt and anguish had been removed and they went into the mission of sharing the Good News.
- They had been transformed, The hidden voice was visible and clear

It is one thing to Remember the story of a dead Jesus. It is completely different to hear and obey a living Jesus.

- What doubts do you have?
- What grief do you carry?
- What are you anguishing about?

Don't let it drown of Jesus' voice calling you