

## On the Road to Emmaus: How Can Luke's Gospel Help Us Be Better Disciples of Jesus?

### Structural Outline of Luke's Gospel

- A) **Literary Preface & Infancy Narrative: 1:1 – 2:52**
- B) Preparatory Events: 3:1 – 4:13
- C) Jesus' Ministry in Galilee: 4:14 – 9:50
- D) Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem: 9:51 – 19:27**
- C') Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem: 19:28 – 21:38
- B') Passion Narrative: 22:1 – 23:56
- A') Resurrection Appearances & Ascension: 24:1-53**

### The Journey to Emmaus (24:13-35)

- WHEN: "That very day [the first day of the week]" (v. 13, cf. 24:1)
  - "*the third day* since..." (v. 21; cf. 9:22; 18:33; 24:7)
- WHO: Two disciples: *Cleopas* and Anonymous (vv. 13, 18)
  - two men? a married couple? (cf. "*Mary the wife of Clopas*"; John 19:25)
- WHERE: *Jerusalem* (vv. 13, 18, 33); *Emmaus/village* (vv. 13, 28)
  - "*on the way*" – *journeying together* (vv. 13, 15, 28); *walking/road/way* (vv. 17, 32, 35)
- WHAT: "All the things that had occurred..." (vv. 14, 18-20)
  - "looking downcast" (v. 17); "*We were hoping* he'd be the one to redeem Israel" (v. 21)
- **SCRIPTURES**: "*Was it not necessary* that the *Christ* should *suffer*...?" (vv. 26, 46)
  - "...*what referred to him in all the Scriptures*"; in Moses, Prophets, Psalms (vv. 27, 44)
  - Which? Deut 18:15, 18; Isaiah 42; 49; 50; 52–53 ("Suffering Servant"); Ps 22 & 31; etc.?
- **SACRAMENT**: "with them at table... *took, blessed, broke, gave*" (v. 30; cf. 9:16; 22:19)
  - "Breaking of the Bread" (v. 35; cf. Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7, 11; 27:35; 1 Cor 10:16; 11:23-24)

### Related Themes in Luke's Gospel

- A) **Christology & Discipleship** in Luke:
  - Savior & Lord of All (1:68-79; 2:11, 29-32); Christ/Messiah & Prophet (4:16-30; 13:33-34)
  - "Love your enemies" (6:27, 35); "be merciful" (6:36); sent on "mission" (9:1-6; 10:1-20)
- B) Theological **Geography** & Contextualized **History**:
  - Gospel begins & ends in *Temple of Jerusalem*; Jesus' *journey to Jerusalem* is central
  - *Historical* markers: 1:5 (days of Herod); 2:1-3 (census of Augustus); 3:1-2 (15<sup>th</sup> year of Tiberius)
- C) Prominence of the **Holy Spirit** – drives all action throughout Luke's Gospel (and Acts)
  - Inspires Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, and esp. Jesus (begin & end)
- D) Emphasis on **Prayer and Praise, Thanksgiving and Joy, Mercy and Salvation**:
  - Hymns of praise; prayers of Jesus & other characters; Jesus' teachings about prayer
- E) Prominence of **Parables** – more than in any other Gospel, including some famous ones:
  - Focus on *repentance/forgiveness* and on use of *wealth/possessions* (esp. Luke 15&16)
- F) Prominence of **Food & Meals** – stresses importance of *hospitality, community* and *sharing*
  - "Eating your way through Luke's Gospel"; "Breaking of the Bread" (esp. Luke 24)
- G) Prominence of **Women** – reflects Luke's original readers; women leaders in Pauline churches
  - Luke often *pairs* stories involving men with stories involving women (real or fictional)
- H) Attention to the **Poor & Lowly, Sick & Sinners, Slaves & Children, Samaritans & Gentiles**
  - Samaritan Villagers; Parable of Good Samaritan; Healing of 10 Lepers (incl. Samaritan)
- I) Theme of **Reversal** – poor/rich, hungry/satisfied, weak/strong, lowly/proud, sinner/righteous, etc.
  - "Magnificat" (1:46-55); parables (Luke 10, 18); Beatitudes & Woes (6:20-26; cf. Matt 5:3-12)

**Music:** Marty Haugen, "Emmaus: Within the Reign of God"; in *The Feast of Life* (GIA, 2000)

**Sunday of the Word of God:** <http://www.pcpne.va/content/pcpne/en/attivita/parola.html>

## On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35, NABRE)

<sup>13</sup> That very day [, the first day of the week],  
two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,

<sup>14</sup> and they were conversing about **all the things that had occurred.**

<sup>15</sup> And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,  
 Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,

<sup>16</sup> but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast.

<sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,  
 "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know  
 of **the things that have taken place** there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "**The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,**  
 who was *a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,*

<sup>20</sup> how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

<sup>21</sup> But *we were hoping* that he would be the one to redeem Israel;  
 and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

<sup>22</sup> Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:  
 they were at the tomb early in the morning <sup>23</sup> and did not find his Body;  
 they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels  
 who announced that he was alive.

<sup>24</sup> Then some of those with us went to the tomb  
 and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "*Oh, how foolish you are!*  
*How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!*

<sup>26</sup> ***Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?***"

<sup>27</sup> **Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,**  
**he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.**

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going,  
 he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

<sup>29</sup> But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."  
 So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> And it happened that, **while he was with them at table,**  
**he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.**

<sup>31</sup> With that *their eyes were opened and they recognized him*, but he vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup> Then they said to each other, "*Were not our hearts burning within us*  
**while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?**"

<sup>33</sup> So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together  
the Eleven and those with them <sup>34</sup> who were saying,

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

<sup>35</sup> Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way  
 and how he was **made known to them** in the **breaking of the bread.**

...

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "These are **my words** that I spoke to you while I was still with you,  
 that **everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.**"

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand **the scriptures.** <sup>46</sup> And he said to them,

"Thus **it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day**

<sup>47</sup> and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations,  
 beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> *You are witnesses of these things.*"