

This past Sunday, one of our scripture readings for church included Luke's account of Jesus meeting two of his followers on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection. I've read this passage many times, but as I listened to it on Sunday, I heard it in a new way. I love how God's Word is living and active – meeting us where we are and ministering to our hearts a little differently each time. If you haven't read the passage lately, you'll find it in Luke 24, verses 13-34. I read the entire passage during our devotion time this week because I wanted our students to have a clear picture of what happened in that encounter.

As Cleopas and his friend walked down the road, they were discussing the events of the past several days. Jesus had just been crucified, and they had heard from the women who had gone to the tomb that Jesus' body wasn't there anymore. I cannot imagine what they would have been thinking! I'm sure there were a myriad of wonderings and questions that were going back and forth. As they are walking and talking, Jesus approaches them and asks them what they are discussing. They do not recognize Jesus but go on to tell Him everything that has been happening.

After listening to them, Jesus tells them that they are being foolish and slow of heart because they have forgotten all that they had been taught. He reminds them of all that was prophesied concerning the Messiah. He took them back to the writings of Moses and the prophets, reteaching everything that they already knew. He went on with them to their homes and shared a meal with them. They didn't recognize Jesus until He sat with them at dinner, breaking bread and passing it among them. When they realized it was Him, he disappeared, and they went and shared the news with the disciples.

There are three parts of this account that really encouraged me this week. First, Jesus met them on the road where they were walking. They didn't know it was possible that they could meet Jesus on the road, but there He was - walking right beside them! Jesus sought them out and walked with them. We are walking an uncertain road right now. Know that Jesus is seeking us out and walking right alongside of us, every step of the way!

Second, Jesus asked them to share what was going on in their lives. He already knew everything that they were going to share, but He asked and listened to their questions, worries, and perspectives. Jesus is asking us to do the same thing today. He wants to hear our questions and worries about our circumstances. We must go to Him in prayer and tell Him what is on our hearts.

Just as He did with Cleopas and his friend, Jesus wants to remind us of what is written in scripture. After we share our burdens with God, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through God's Word. We need our Bibles open! We need to surround ourselves with scripture to remind us of God's truth. In days like these, it is easy to become slow of heart...dehydrated when we don't spend time in the living water of God's Word.

Just because we are walking an unfamiliar road doesn't mean that we are walking it alone. The words of the old hymn, "I Must Tell Jesus," have rung in my head this week. "I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus, I cannot bear these burdens alone. In my distress He kindly will help me – He ever loves and care for His own." Allow Jesus to meet you on the road, bear your burdens for you, and share His goodness, love, and mercy through His Word!

KEY VERSES: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

