

## Scriptural Reference: Luke 24:13-35 “Emmaus”

### A One Act Play

- Scene 1 (vs. 13-27) Jesus joins the two travelers who do not recognize him. They discuss recent events in Jerusalem. The unrecognized-Jesus expounds on scripture which anticipates the Messiah.
- Scene 2 (vs. 28-29) The three arrive at the village of Emmaus and the two invite Jesus to stay.
- Scene 3 (vs. 30-32) Jesus breaks bread with them and they recognize him as Jesus, recalling the scriptures that he had explained to them. But Jesus disappears.
- Scene 4 (vs. 33-35) The two immediately travel back to Jerusalem to tell the eleven apostles what had happened.

### Is This Just A Simple Story?

Another “empty tomb” story? We, myself included, come away with the point being Jesus was risen from the dead as proclaimed elsewhere in Bible several times. The people, place, their reaction is secondary to the risen Christ.

I want to suggest there is more to this story than meets the eye. Besides a historical account of the last days of the mortal Jesus, I suggest this is also a parable, an allegory....a story with deeper meaning than appears on the surface. And here’s why....

**Emmaus:** certainly a place 2000 years ago, but now? We are really not exactly sure where it was, only it was probably west of Jerusalem, maybe 10 or 20 miles. So what might Emmaus stand for? Maybe any place where people find themselves traveling to. Maybe it stands for Old Forge or Raquette lake in modern times!

**The two travelers:** Cleopas and ???. What do we know about them? “24:13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about

seven miles[a] from Jerusalem.” TWO OF THEM? Probably disciples of Jesus, were they close companions of Jesus during his ministry, or people who occasionally tagged along?

**They Listened to Jesus and then invited him to stay:** They didn't recognize him and yet showed hospitality to a stranger. I wonder how many of us have invited strangers to stay with us and share a meal?

**We could go on and on like this pulling this story apart.** But the point is:

This is a timeless story. It had lessons for the people who first heard this almost 2000 years ago and it has lessons for us today...and will have lessons to those who follow us.

**What is the last thing we heard in this story?** The “two” went immediately back to Jerusalem and told the apostles what they had experienced.

Look at the last verse: “24:35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.”

**My hope for us today**....is may we encounter the risen Lord as we break bread together today and every time we celebrate communion.