

## Taking The Same Road to Emmaus As Did The Disciples

One weekend, one black Friday, had changed it all. They walked now, realistic again, more than 48 hours older, their dreams, like their messiah, dead, entombed. They had grown up a lot in one weekend. Their naiveté had died as it hung exposed, mocked and ridiculed by the wise. There was a lesson hard learned, but it brought a hurt and a disappointment beyond words. But another feeling clung to them too, like a demon refusing to be exorcised. The dream still burned holes in their hearts. Mocked and dead – maybe it didn't matter? Maybe something was more real than even death! Hurt beyond words, confused beyond doubts, they searched for words, grasped for trust. Then a stranger caught their step and caught their mood. They didn't recognize him. How could they? In their loss of trust, their messiah had died. Perhaps they were afraid and didn't want to hide away with the others in the locked upper room. The life they had known with Jesus was over and would never be the same. They had lost all hope. Perhaps they expected to seek refuge in their former way of life in their hometown, Emmaus. Yet the seven-mile journey brought them no peace. Cleopas and the other disciple continued along the road, discussing and debating, without answers to the questions which troubled them.

Today, like the two disciples, we may also find ourselves troubled and afraid. The world today is very different from only a few years ago. We remain together here on this journey, but the way feels confusing and dark. We miss the way things used to be. We don't like the unexpected changes, and we don't feel like we are in control. Like Cleopas and his companion, we may feel an urge to get out or get away from this new reality.

However, this confusion and fear is not the end of the story. The Gospel tells us that as Cleopas and his companion walked along, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. Perhaps their anxiety and fears blinded them, we don't know. But what we do know is that in their time of grief, confusion, and sorrow, they were not alone. Jesus himself drew near to them and walked with them.