



## **The DAILY JESUS NEWS #337** **Jesus' Resurrection and Eternal Ministry**

### **The Five Resurrection Appearances of Jesus on Easter Sunday**

#### **Jesus' Third Resurrection Appearance: To Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus** **Luke 24.13-32**

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13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing 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 gloomy and sad. 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?"

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 shocked 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 Was it not necessary for the Messiah 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.

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, but he vanished from their sight.

32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and opening the Scriptures to us?"

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Road (West) From Jerusalem to Emmaus
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	The Resurrection and 40 Day Ministry of Jesus
	The Five Resurrection Appearances of Jesus on Easter Sunday
Title:	Jesus' 3rd Resurrection Appearance: To Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

In today's reading we see again that after Jesus rose from the dead, he chose to reveal himself to obscure and unknown disciples before any of the "great" apostles. It is doubtful that Cleopas and his other unnamed friend were arguing about which of them was the greatest believer on the night Jesus was arrested. That is what the apostles were doing.

God rejects the proud, and extends his grace to the humble and lowly. So it was in the resurrection appearances.

Cleopas and another brother were on the roughly two hour trek to the small village of Emmaus, which was located to the west of Jerusalem. The road went by Golgotha and the Garden Tomb, so it was easy for Jesus to join them.

It was afternoon when Jesus approached the men, who did realize that it was Jesus. The text makes it clear that it was their unbelief that *"kept them from recognizing him."* (LK 24.16) The moment they DID recognize him, Jesus vanished from their sight, for it was no longer necessary to see him physically once they had "seen" his risen presence by faith. This was a crucial lesson of this appearance.

The irony of their question to Jesus was startling. *"Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"* Jesus was actually the only person on earth who DID know what happened when he suffered, died, and rose again.

When Jesus asked them to describe the events, they ended their summary with Peter and John's experience at the tomb... *"but him (Jesus) they did not see."* In spite of the testimony of the angels, Mary, and the other women that they had seen the risen Jesus, they still did not believe, because no apostle had verified the resurrection with their physical eyes. This frustrated Jesus.

***"How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"***

Jesus wanted his disciples to believe in his resurrection because of the Scriptures, and his own Word which he held as equal to Scripture—not because they had seen him physically. After all, the value of mere physical sight of his resurrection presence was proving useless in those very moments. These two disciples were looking straight at Jesus with their physical eyes, but could not recognize him because of their unbelief.

One reason Jesus rose from the dead in isolation from human eyes and confirmation was that faith is based upon God's Word. Jesus would say in his sixth appearance: **"Blessed are those who believe without seeing."** Jesus did provide much convincing proof that he was alive after his resurrection, but it was to confirm the testimony of Scripture, not to replace faith in the God of the Word with faith in mere sensory perceptions.

The extended Old Testament Bible Study that Jesus gave these two disciples set their hearts on fire. This became Jesus' central activity during his many resurrection appearances over the next forty days: he constantly immersed the disciples in the Scriptures concerning himself, showing them they way he had fulfilled them all. Jesus grounded their faith in his Word—not their sensory experience of him.

Finally, after hearing Jesus speak from the Scriptures concerning himself, the two disciples recognized him as he prayed his prayer of thanks and broke the bread. No one ever prayed like Jesus!

Just as Mary instantly recognized Jesus, without seeing him, when he called her name, so these disciples immediately recognized Jesus when he called his Father's Name in prayer. The intimacy, depth and vitality of Jesus' fellowship with his Father was like none other.

#### APPLICATION:

Jesus vanished from their sight the instant they recognized him to show once again that his presence with us is spiritual and constant, whether we see him physically or not.

Once we truly believe in everything the Scriptures declare about Jesus, all of our needs are fully met in him. We can wait patiently for the blessing of physically seeing him for the first time until the moment we arrive in heaven, or he returns for the final time to this earth. Until then, we are thrilled to live by faith, not by sight.

*What part of your faith, behavior, needs, or attitudes do you need to re-ground on the sure foundation of Jesus' Word?*

*How do you tend to go about your days, forgetting that Jesus is really with you all the time? How can you re-focus on his presence in the routines of your life?*

*Does your heart burn within you as the Holy Spirit opens up your understanding, and allows you to hear the voice of Jesus in His Word?*

*How can you increase your time in His Word and prayer in the coming year?*