

I am taking great liberty in this message to imagine a conversation that is not recorded in Scripture but that is based on Scripture. It is one we would have all liked to have heard, and one that is surely greater than we could guess. My hope is that this dramatic narrative will give us just a small taste of what it would have been like to have been with Cleopas and his friend on the road to Emmaus. I'll be speaking as the friend of Cleopas.

Cleopas, brother of Joseph and therefore the uncle of Jesus,¹⁴ and I were journeying to Emmaus. We did not understand what had happened. Both of us were not just disheartened, we were confused and in deep grief. We were discussing the recent events, trying to make sense of it all. That is when a stranger walked along side us and engaged us in conversation.

¹⁷ *And he said to us, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?"* Luke 24:17a (I) *answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"*¹⁹ *And he said to us, "What things?"* And we said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." Luke 24:18-24

²⁵ *And He said to us, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"*²⁶ *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"* Luke 24:25-26 (ESV) And then He started to explain to us what Moses and the prophets had written. He started right in the beginning.

"What was the first thing God said?" He asked. "Let there be light?" I answered. "And what was before the light?" "Darkness!" I said. "And what happens to the darkness when light comes?" "It is expelled," I said. "Did He not say to you, I am the light of the world?" "Yes, He did!" "Then why would you think the darkness would overcome Him?" I was saddened to think that I had considered that to be the case. Somewhat embarrassed I hung my head. But then I began to consider what He was saying. Perhaps He really did rise from the dead! I looked at Cleopas and saw by his wide opened eyes that he caught what the man was saying.

The man asked us if we remembered that God had told Eve that from her would come a male descendant who would crush the head of the serpent? (Genesis 3:15) Of course we did. How could we forget the first great prediction of the coming Messiah? The man asked us, "For your Master to conquer death, would He not have to first defeat the one who has power over death?" We didn't answer, but looked at each other with even

Commented [PW1]: The historian, Bishop [Eusebius of Caesarea](#), quotes the earlier chronicler, [Hegesippus](#), who wrote, c. AD 180, that he had years before interviewed the grandsons of [Jude the Apostle](#) and learned that Cleophas was the brother of [Joseph](#), husband of the [Virgin Mary](#): "After the martyrdom of James, it was unanimously decided that [Simeon](#), son of Cleophas, was worthy to occupy the see of Jerusalem. He was, it is said, a cousin of the Saviour." Hegesippus noted that Cleophas was a brother of Joseph (Eusebius, Hist. eccl., III, 11). [Epiphanius](#) adds that Joseph and Cleopas were brothers, sons of "Jacob, surnamed Panther."^[8] from Wikipedia

Commented [PW2]: [Genesis 3:15 \(ESV\)](#)

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

more excitement than before. The man was right. In fact, I remember a parable Jesus told the Pharisees about binding the strong man before you can take what is his (Matthew 12:29).

Then He asked us if we remember the promise to Abraham. That was a bit insulting to as we are devout Jews, but perhaps it was a reprimand for not applying it to Jesus. Every Jew knows that the land of Israel is our inheritance and that a descendent of Abraham would bless the world (Genesis 12:3). So I asked how it could be that Jesus, who was perhaps risen from death would bless the world? The man asked me if I could recall the suffering servant songs of the prophet Isaiah. "Yes," I said, "I know them quite well, for I am an Essene."² "Then you know that the Messiah, the arm of the Lord, would be raised and lifted up and highly exalted." (Isaiah 52:13) "Yes but what does that have to do with Jesus?" I asked. "Did you not see Him lifted on the crossbeam and raised up on the post?" "Yes." "And having laid the iniquity of us all on Him, did the prophet not say, ¹¹ *Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.* ¹² *Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.* Isaiah 53:11-12 There is the blessing to the world, the forgiveness of sins to all who come to Him by faith. Is there any greater blessing to the world? Accomplishing this blessing for the world is He not truly worthy of being declared Son of God, Lord of all?" (Acts 13:33)

Cleopas and I quit responding to His questions. We would just nod as if to say, "Go on! Keep telling us more." Our hearts were burning within us as He opened to us the Scriptures. Our teachers had told us how some of these passages would be fulfilled in the coming Messiah, but we had never seen how clearly they applied to our Master.

The man must have read my questioning face, wondering about the promises of Messiah's reign over the earth. He continued, "And did not Isaiah tell us that ² *He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;* ³ *a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.* ⁴ *He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law?* Isaiah 42:2-4 You thought He would deliver you from the Romans, but He came for a greater deliverance. **All the physical promises in the Scriptures are but shadows of the spiritual promises you have in the Messiah.** Your great enemies are your fallen nature and the prince of this world. These are not defeated with armies. His death and resurrection have delivered you from both! Justice for your sins was poured out on Him on the cross. Now the coastlands, the distant shores, are waiting *for you* to bring them this good news.

Cleopas and I noticed we both had tears of joy in our eyes. We had gone from confusion and doubt to joy unspeakable and full of glory from hearing the words of this man opening up the Scriptures to us.

Commented [PW3]: Matthew 12:29 (ESV)

²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Commented [PW4]: Genesis 12:3 (ESV)

³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Commented [PW5]: Conjecture on my part

Commented [PW6]: Isaiah 52:13 (ESV)

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

Commented [PW7]: Acts 13:33 (ESV)

³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.'

He was just beginning, and we clung to every word. "Does not the account of Noah speak of what the Messiah has done for you? As there was only one door on the ark, did he not tell you that He was the door through which one must enter to be saved? (John 10:9) And as the ark bore the family of Noah through the judgment, does His invitation to you not invite you to experience a similar salvation from God's wrath upon sin? Will not abiding in Him bring you to a new world cleansed of all evil?"

The Messiah is God's Passover Lamb. At Passover the blood of the lamb was placed on the door. Were they not told they must enter through the blood-stained door to escape the judgment of God upon the firstborn? (Exodus 12:22-23) And did they not partake of the lamb as a family? Did you hear Him declare that you must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have life? (John 6:53) Surely you heard that John the Baptizer declared that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world?" (John 1:29)

He paused to let us consider what He had said. My head was spinning. All these stories I had heard every year in the synagogue, I was beginning to see as one coherent message. We are all fallen from the way God created us, and hopelessly lost in our rebellion against God, going our own way (Isaiah 53:6). My ancestors failed over and over again to keep the laws of God. We needed a Messiah, not to deliver us from the nations of the world, but from our sins. The blood of all the sacrifices only looked forward in faith to the blood Messiah had shed for us on the cross. No wonder the psalmist said God was not pleased with the sacrifices and that they could never take away sins (Psalm 40:6-8). I never understood that until now. All those sacrifices just said sin required life's blood, but I could never convey my sins to an animal. Our sins could only be taken by One who was sinless, One who willingly took my punishment upon Himself. This was the good news the world is waiting to hear.

Cleopas broke the silence by pleading for us both, "Please teach us more!" He continued, "Do you remember when Jesus asked the rulers to explain why David could call His descendant 'Lord'? The father is greater than the son. Surely you have heard of Mary's claim to have been a virgin when Jesus was conceived." Indeed, we had. He said, "That makes Him the Son of God, for He was conceived of the Holy Spirit. Remember when He asked who could convict Him of sin? (John 8:46) Do you know of any other human being who could ask that question and not expect an answer? Do you recall when He said, "*I and my Father are One*"? (John 10:30) Or can you recall the names that Isaiah declared the Son of David would be called? Let me remind you, '*His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*' Isaiah 9:6b How can the Son of Man be called 'Mighty God and Everlasting Father' unless God miraculously planted the sinless seed in the womb of Mary, just as He had promised Eve. And you know that Isaiah declared, ^{14b} '*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*' Isaiah 7:14b

He was silent again, so I had to ask, "Are you saying that Jesus was God with us as the name indicates?" "Isn't that what the Scriptures declare? Why is it so hard for you to believe that God who created all physical things could manifest His very nature to reveal to mankind, in the clearest possible way, that His love would go to any extent to

Commented [PW8]: John 10:9 (ESV)

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Commented [PW9]: Exodus 12:22-23 (ESV)

²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.

²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

Commented [PW10]: John 6:53 (ESV)

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

Commented [PW11]: John 1:29 (ESV)

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Commented [PW12]: Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Commented [PW13]: Psalm 40:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

⁷ Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Commented [PW14]: John 8:46 (ESV)

⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?

satisfy His justice and provide for your salvation." I thought to myself, "It is hard to believe, because we have seen so many false messiahs, and because we have been taught that no man can see God and live (Genesis 22:30). And yet, all throughout our history, God was seen physically as 'the angel of the Lord' and referred to as YHWH. Could Jesus be the angel of the Lord, the physical manifestation of the invisible God?

Who else could walk on the waves of the sea (Job 9:8). In fact the psalmist said it was God who walks on waves and stills them (Psalm 107:29). The other disciples told me of the time Jesus came to them on Galilee walking on the waves in the midst of the storm (Matthew 14:32-33). I believed it, because I had seen Him heal impossible situations with a word, even a man blind from birth (John 9:6-7). He healed everyone who came to him (Matthew 8:16). Even Elijah and Moses do not compare to what we had seen Jesus do. Elijah raised a boy from death, Jesus raised a boy, a girl, and man who had been dead four days! (John 11:43-44) Moses called water from a rock, but Jesus said that everyone who believes in Him will have a well of water springing up within them (John 7:38). The Word of God was manifest as the Shekinah in the Tabernacle. I *can* believe the Word of God lived in the tent of a human body (John 1:14).

I asked, "Can you tell us other Scriptures that explain these last few days?" He didn't hesitate to tell us of Daniel's prediction. "The sixty-nine weeks Daniel predicted came to its conclusion last Friday with the crucifixion. Daniel said that Messiah the Prince would be cut off, that sins would be atoned (Daniel 9:25-26). That part of the prophecy has been fulfilled." I asked, "Are we in the seventieth week?" He answered, "It is not for you to know the day or hour, for only the Father knows (Mark 13:32).

But as to the resurrection, do you recall the words of Hosea? ¹ *'Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.'* Hosea 6:1-2 And what was your understanding of the words of David in his psalm, ⁹ *'Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption?'* Psalm 16:9-10 Can darkness quench the light? Can the very One who is life, who declared 'I am the resurrection and the life,' (John 11:25) be kept in death?"

We were approaching the home in which were to spend the night in the town of Emmaus. It looked as if the man would continue on His journey, so we asked if He would be so kind as to join us for the evening meal and take shelter with us. We desperately wanted to hear more, for our hopes were renewed and our minds and hearts were trying to take in every word He spoke. To our great joy, He said He would.

I quickly baked some flat bread with olive oil and the three of us reclined around a small table. I asked our guest if He would give thanks. He agreed. He took the bread, and lifting it up, with His eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, we bless You, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for giving us bread from the earth, and for sending down the bread of heaven to give life to the world." And as He tore the bread in two and handed it to us, our eyes were open. We saw the nail holes in His hands it was Jesus! And He

Commented [PW15]: Genesis 32:30 (ESV)

³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

Commented [PW16]: Job 9:8 (ESV)

⁸ who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;

Commented [PW17]: Psalm 107:29 (ESV)

²⁹ He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Commented [PW18]: Matthew 14:32-33 (ESV)

³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Commented [PW19]: John 9:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud
⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

Commented [PW20]: Matthew 8:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.

Commented [PW21]: John 11:43-44 (ESV)

⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."
⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Commented [PW22]: John 7:38 (ESV)

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Commented [PW23]: John 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Commented [PW24]: Daniel 9:25-26 (ESV)

²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.
²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

Commented [PW25]: Mark 13:32 (ESV)

³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Commented [PW26]: John 11:25 (ESV)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

vanished. We were alone. We were both silent for a moment, then the tears came, and then we could not contain our joy. We were exulting, jumping, spinning, praising, praying, hugging, and crying for joy.

Cleopas nearly shouted, "We've got to go tell the others." We ran until we could run no more. We walked until we caught our breath, and then ran some more. Arriving at the upper room ^{33b} We *found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"³⁵ Then we told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to us in the breaking of the bread.* Luke 24:33-35

³⁶ As we were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among us, and said to us, "Peace to you!"³⁷ But we were startled and frightened and thought we saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to us, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed us his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while we still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to us, "Have you anything here to eat?"⁴² We gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before us. ⁴⁴ Then he said to us, "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 the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵ Then he opened our minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to us, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:36-49 We did. We were. And so are you that have trusted in Him for your salvation. And if you have not received His forgiveness and love, we urge you on behalf of God, be reconciled to God today. The coastlands wait for us to bring them the good news. He is risen!

Questions

- 1 Who was Cleopas?
- 2 What was Cleopas and his friend's state of mind?
- 3 What was Jesus' first response to it?
- 4 What was the first analogy?
- 5 What was the first Messianic promise and how did it fit the situation?
- 6 What did the Suffering Servant Songs predict?
- 7 What was the Noah analogy?
- 8 What was the Passover analogy?
- 9 How did they discover it was Jesus?
- 10 What happened in the upper room?