

Walk with Jesus

- Beautiful painting hung dining room GGL's house. Of wooded scene; dirt path winding thru mid forest. On path, man white robe. At his side, 2 discs, going on WWJ. Pretty famous; many seen before. Depicts exactly what takes place in Gos: acct road Ems. Was afrtnn ES. That morn, J'd risen/dead & appeared MM & other women; that eve, J appeared discs behind lockd doors (last wk). But that afrtnn, 2 discs, heading for Ems, went on WWJ. And today, as see 2 discs going on WWJ, might just learn thing/2 re own WWJ.
- **Vs. 13-16.** And you know what talking re: how Tchr/Lord just been crucfd/buried; thght J dead/gone. But all sudn J joind them on road & walked w/them! But they didn't realize: J.
- What I'd like you realize today: we're all WWJ. That's what means be Xian. By faith we trust in Xp as Sav, risen/dead; so in faith we WWJ. Some you been WWJ short time; come bel smwht recntly. Others WWJ your entire life: baptzd as chld, grew up in Ch, studied GW at home, Luth schl, SS – been WWJ long time. Whether new to Xian faith/not, my enc for you: always WWJ. WWJ even when don't recgnz he's there, bec may be times/life when you (like discs) feel like J gone or abandnd you. Smone you love dies of disease no one knows how cure. Some prob comes into life don't know how fix. So feel helpless, abandnd by J – you don't recgnz J w/u. But by faith you know: he's there. By faith, know: J rose dead; and you remem wrds: "Peace bwu; don't be afrd; stop doubting & bel." Don't ever: think J's left you; be afraid he's abandnd you. Instead, WWJ. He's wlknng w/you & always will, even when don't recngz him.
- So they're walkng along; J joins & asks **vs. 17.** Litly stop mid road, look at J in shock. **Vs. 18b;** then J: **vs. 19a.** He plays dumb; acts like doesn't know what's going on! Later on he'll reveal true identity. But for now, pretnds doesn't know, asks **vs. 19a.** Why? He's inviting these discs: talk to him, share concrns, share what on minds, unload baggage – bec J is interstd, J does care, J will listn.
- And today J tchs us do very same thng. As walk road/life w/J, he invites us talk him, share concrns, share what's on minds, speak in prayer, unload baggage – bec J is interstd, does care, will listen. So as WWJ, also talk w/J, in prayer. Xians pray – doesn't have be fancy words, elqnt phrases – prayer: simply talking w/God, fr hrt, knowing listening. So as you WWJ, also talk w/J.
- J asks what talking re. And they: **vs. 19b-21a.** Hear hoplssnss in wrds? Thght J dead/gone frvr; dejected, disppntd, hoplss; felt rel w/J: thing/past. So beginnng move on. You can tell by way use past tense: *was* prpht (not anymr); *had hoped* redeem Isrl (but not anymr). Beginnng move on fr J & see J as thing/past.
- When smthng in life reachs conclsn, we usually move on. Bball season comes end, play last game: time move on. Or in school musical; spnd all that time prtctng, then big show, then over/done; time move on. That's what these discs doing w/J. He's dead/gone; time move on. And you can see foolshnss in that bec you know J risn/dead. But smtms we too temptd thnk of J as thng/past, as smone who imp us when chld, but not anymr. Smtms temptd thnk: those Bbl lessons studied in SS, or Cat lessons studied w/pr, only meant for grd-schlr, for kids; now it's time move on – that's how lot ppl think. I can tell you re dzns ppl falln fr faith; grew up in ch, confrmd; then became adults, left ch, & moved on fr J. They were WWJ; but then made J thing/past.
- So as you WWJ, make sure J remains not only in your past, but also pres/fut – bec it's true, **vs. 19c.** Evthng you ever learnd re J in past, all true: how calmd strms, fed Ks, heald sick; died cross, rose dead. But now in pres, J still calmng strms, feedng Ks, healng sick; still tchnng ppl that did die cross, rise dead for them (incl you!), so that smdy in the fut all bels (incl you!) would be w/him frvr in hvn. J: your past, pres, fut. He's been walking w/u; is walking w/u right now; & will cont walk w/u entire life. Don't move on fr J or think he's only part your past. But every day, WWJ.
- So they're sharing their disappntmnts w/stranger (remem, still didn't even know: J). And J: **vs. 25-27.** These discs: weak in faith; doubted res. Like Dbtng Tom (last wk): would not bel unless proof. But in love, J still came to these discs, even in their weakness, and patiently explaind evrythng.
- There: plenty times we too: weak/faith. We doubt J's: love/pwr/Wrd. Like Tom, we want proof before we'll bel. And that's a weaknss on our part, of which shld be ashamd. But in love/patienc J still comes us, even when faith is weak – J so patient! Just fathom for mmnt patienc/Xp. He's done evthng save us: shed bld, conquerd dth, gives us this salvtn as free gift/grace. And we have audacity say, "J, I'm not so sure I bel it's true." But J has patienc say, "That's okay; let me explain this to you."

- That's what did for discs. **Vs. 27.** And don't you wish cl'd've been there, for that BC on road, to hear very wrds/J!? That wld've really strngthnd my faith! But wait min – we do have very wrds/J, in Scrptrs/GW. When you feel weak/faith, go back to Wrld/Gos; there J explains evrythng us. GW: foundtn/faith; & when we retrn Gos, good news God's grace/frgvnss tght in Scrptr – that's how weak faith made strng.
- Finly make to Ems; **vs. 28-30.** This not HC, even thgh some/wrds simlr; this just an eve meal for hungry trvlrs who really wantd dine w/J – which makes me think: do you hungr to dine w/J? Do you hungr to join J: in his house for wrshp; at his table, for his Sup. Do you hungr for J & Wrld? If we as Xians truly hungr for J, then why do so many among us: skip ch so often, miss Com so often – as if coming ch is not imp; as if have smwhr better be! If you have develpd an unhlthy diet of skipping mealtime w/J, going wks w/o wrshpng/communing w/J, then, first of all: I'm glad you're here today! But let me ask you: what hapnd to your hunger? Aren't you hungry for J? Famished? Don't you see what your low-Gos diet is doing to soul? J wants to dine/walk w/you. If you're want WWJ, you need sprtl nrshmnt for jrnj.
- As eating this eve meal, all/suddn **vs. 31.** Realzd J; then vanshd thin air. But that was okay, bec they saw him alive; and hrts burning w/faith. So raced back Jrslm tell others, "True! J is risen! We've seen!" They trvld same path walked earlier w/J, only now were w/o J. Or were they really w/o J? I submit to you: that J was w/them on walk fr Ems just as w/them on walk to Ems. Maybe cldn't see him; nvrthlss, they: WWJ. Same true us: may not physcly see J; but as walk road/life & live the Xian faith, we're indeed WWJ. That's what road to Ems is all about! J really is alive! And even if you can't see him, by faith you know he's there, walking w/you, beside you, never to leave you. My dear sis/bro in Xp, fellow bels in risen Sav, never stray fr path of Xian faith as you journey thru life. But stay close to Sav & WWJ.

Luke 23:13-35

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One 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. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but 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. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹But 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.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.