**The Walk to Emmaus**

“**Believe or not Believe”**

R Giglio 4-8-21

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, he spent time with two little-known disciples and walked with them on a seven-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus. For these two disciples, the walk started out in disbelief and sadness. It ended in joy, excitement, love, and true devotion.

**Luke 24:13-32**

**13**Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2024&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26005a)] from Jerusalem. **14**They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. **15**As they talked and discussed 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 downcast. **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 amazed 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**Did not the Messiah have 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.

*(GREATEST BIBLE STUDY OF ALL TIME)*

**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, and he disappeared from their sight. **32**They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

This takes place on the *day of* His Resurrection. Even before appearing to the Eleven, he obviously felt that it was important to spend time with these two broken-hearted obscure disciples on their way home to Emmaus.

He recognized that, while they knew about His death and *did* acknowledge the resurrection, *they did not* fully believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the fulfillment of their long-awaited hope. In fact they were disappointed that Jesus did not meet their expectations of Messiah. He gently corrects them, humors them for a while and teaches them the secrets of the Old Testament to help them with their unbelief.

*GREATEST BIBLE STUDY EVER!*

*Verse 27 says;*

*Lk 24:* **27**And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

He explained to them about the Messianic prophecies concerning Himself from the **Tenakh** (Old Testament/Hebrew Scruptures): **Tanakh** is an **acronym** of the first Hebrew letter of each of the Masoretic Text's three traditional subdivisions:

**TaNaKh**.

* *Torah* ("Teaching", also known as the Five Books of Moses),
* *Nevi'im* ("Prophets") and
* *Ketuvim* ("Writings")—

Jesus mentions the; The writings of Moses (Torah) and the Prophets in verse 27.

He basically takes them on a journey through the entire Old Testament, talking about the Story of God and His People and pointing out the many scriptures as “things concerning Himself”.

**Messianic Prophecies:** “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

# **Genesis 49:10**

**“**The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants,
until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.”

**Fulfilled: Jesus was the one descendant of Judah who is honored by every nation.**

1. **Prophecy (The Prophets):**

 **Isa 35:4-6** “your God will come,
    he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
    he will come to save you.”

**5**Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
    and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
**6**Then will the lame leap like a deer,
    and the mute tongue shout for joy.”

**This was Fulfilled:** *(even John the Baptist questioned, whether this was coming true)*

**Matt 11:2-4**

**2**John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, **3**“Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11#fen-NLT-23439a)] or should we keep looking for someone else?”

**4**Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— **5**the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.”

*I would have LOVED to hear all the things Jesus taught these two disciples as he totally took apart the Old Testament and revealed its truth.*

**The end of the journey in Emmaus:**

“Upon hearing these things as Jesus sat and broke bread with them, their eyes were open to the truth and they believed:”

**Luke 24:31 – 32:** **31**Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

**32**They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”

They went from *unbelief* to *belief* in one sitting, as He revealed to them the truth of the Word, their hearts *burned within them.*

Jesus clearly showed them that He was and is in fact the Messiah, the Anointed One and the one whom all the Law and the Prophets point to. They no longer doubted.

**EARLY DISCIPLES:**

The early church was made up of Jewish men and woman who had studied the Law and the Prophets their entire life. When they came face to face with the truth of what Jesus did, they “changed their mind” about what they formerly believed and accepted Jesus as Messiah and believed in Him.

Many believed so strongly that they allowed themselves to be Martyred for the cause of Jesus the Messiah.

This is especially true of Paul, who was known as Saul of Tarsus and well-known Rabbi and teacher of the law. He was Hebrew of Hebrews having studied under the famous Rabbi Gamaliel.

He was known by the Romans as: *“A Ringleader of the Jewish sect known as the Nazarenes”*

Paul was so convinced that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures, that he spent his entire life traveling and teaching about it, and eventually went to his death in Rome for this cause.

There was undisputed consensus among the writers of the New Testament (all devout 1st century / 2nd Temple Jews) that Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies and more. These are those whose interpretation we trust. This is why we believe He is the “Messiah, the Son of the Living God”. We trust their study of the Tenakh.

*(not necessarily our own)*

***Why don’t most Jews believe this today?***

Most modern Jews who dispute these interpretations, are influenced by the writings of scribes and scholars that came hundreds of years after the writing of the New Testament by Jews scattered throughout the world.

**Example**: *Maimonides,* considered one of the greatest Jewish scholars of all time. Wrote the interpretation of traditional Jewish texts like [Mishnah](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/why-the-mishnah-is-the-best-jewish-book-youve-never-read/), [Talmud](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/talmud-101/) and [Midrash](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/midrash/).

I prefer to embrace the interpretations of earlier Jewish writers who not only worshipped at the actual temple in Jerusalem, but had personal encounters with Jesus himself; like Paul, Matthew, John, Peter, James, etc..

Regardless of what you believe, belief in anyone or anything takes *faith.*

**PISTIS: Faith – (Pistis), Believe – (Pistis), Trust – (Pistis)**

*Same Word!*

The opposite is **a-pistia** (unbelief)

Jesus rebukes UNBELIEF

**Mark 16:14** *Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.*

**John 20:26-29** Doubting Thomas

**26**And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” **27**Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here,* and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

**28**And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

**29**Jesus said to him, [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+20%3A28-29&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26897a)]“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

***APISTIA (Unbelief)* - The opposite of Faith / Belief and Trust**

This is a huge problem in the world today. Many people just refuse to believe. The behavior and customs of this world are to reject God and cling to unbelief.

(STORY – “ FRIEND: “ What do I say to my friends, they do not agree with Christians on many things, like politics, sexuality, ideology, so they pretty much reject the gospel as well”.)

I have friends like that too, the more I think about it, I realize that they are basically unbelievers. They don’t believe in the Word of God and therefore, don’t believe what we do about Jesus.

The problem is not what they believe about *issues*, it’s what they believe about **Jesus.**

I wish I could get them to feel the opposite about Jesus. I wish they would all follow him. My deepest hope is that they would change their mind about Jesus, believe in Him, and experience the relationship that we have with Him.

But that won’t happen until they *repent.* …Yes, **Repent.**

# Repentance is not behavior modification or even abstaining from doing the wrong thing. It is simply “**a change of mind”.** - **Metanoia**

**METANOIA = Repentance – A change of one’s mind.**

Going from unbelief to belief is the most important form of repentance of all.

Going from an Unbeliever to a Believer, requires a change of heart and spirit, but it starts with Repentance – A Change of Mind

For a Jewish person, it is simply changing your mind from “Jesus is not the Messiah, to believing that Jesus IS the Messiah”

Becoming “a believer” is what it means to be saved.

* Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
* Acts 16:30-31 **30**Then he ( Philippian Jailor) brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” **31**They replied, “*Believe* in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.”
* JOHN 1:12 “He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”

What about believers who struggle with unbelief?

Those who believe in Jesus, but don’t trust Him as much anymore.

Those who struggle to increase their faith through the years because of fear, disappointment and doubt.

Some are starving themselves by not fully believing and nourishing themselves with the Word of God.

**1 Tim 4:6** “be nourished by the message of faith and the good teaching”

Pastor Lloyd Pulley called it “Spiritual Suicide” in a recent email.

*“Just as physical suicide can result from neglecting to cultivate good relationships with people, a slow spiritual suicide can come to those who keep rejecting or ignoring God's invitation to believe in Him.”*

“…*ignoring God's invitation to believe in Him”*

**God is inviting all of us to believe in Him, take Him at His \Word and put our trust completely in Him, not just unbelievers, but ALL of us.**

**We talked last week about those who are believers, but still struggle with unbelief, Like the man whose son was tormented with severe seizures,**

**Mark 9:21-24 “**Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. **22**“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”**23**“‘If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”**24**Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

**We all struggle from time to time with unbelief. When we do we need to ask God to help us overcome our unbelief, and then repent of it.**

**Repent?, Yes!**

**Change your way of thinking about it and start believing.**

**[example: “I don’t love him any more”, “I don’t use sunscreen”, “I don’t brush my teeth.”**

***REPENT – Change your mind and your behavior will follow.***

* **Do you believe in Him? Do you believe in all that the Word says about God? About Jesus? About you?**
* **Do you need to repent (change your mind) about any unbelief regarding your thoughts about His Word, His Will and His Plan for your life?**

**Closing:**

**Romans 12:2“**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”