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ON THE ROAD TO LIFE

Luke 24

[PRAYER] Lord, we're thankful that it's Easter today. We sing songs about the resurrection and about the hope and how you're good. We want that to be very personal in our own lives. We want you to meet us personally today. Lord, we sense your presence here through the worship and the fellowship is just sweet. We love it. Now Lord, as we open your word we ask that you'd teach us and give us the message that each of us needs. You know what happened in our lives this morning. You know what happened in our lives this week. You know the challenges that we're all facing and you meet us on that road. So we're asking you to do that today. Give us insight into how we are to live differently because we know you. Change us today, Lord. We want to be changed because we come in contact with Jesus Christ. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

I entitled this message "On the Road to Life" because all of us are on a road. You're on a road, I'm on a road, and our roads sometimes converge. But we are each on a road to life. Now we're going to look at two people walking on the road today. I think they're symbolic of our lives. We're going to learn a lot from them because when we're done at the end of our time today, we're going to be able to take the lives of those people and their experience and apply it to our lives. We're going to take Jesus home today. That's our objective. Not to leave Him here. We're going to take Him home so that we can understand what's going on in our own lives and how to walk on our road in a better way. That's our objective. We're on this road to life.

Now I want to start in Luke 24 by stepping back from the road and looking at the beginning of the chapter. In the beginning of Luke 24 it talks about the women on those first few moments of Easter Sunday. They come running to the tomb in order to put spices on the body. But they get there and the tomb is empty. When the tomb is empty, they're wondering what's going on. In the midst of their wondering these two angels appear. The angels surprise them and shake them up so much that the Bible says their faces go down to the ground. They're so shook up by this event of seeing angels.

The angels have some words for them that are very important. The words are – "*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*" What a great statement. I just wonder how many people today are looking for life in dead places. If you're looking for life in dead places, you're not going to find it. If you're trying to find life in a relationship other than Jesus, you're going to be disappointed. If you're trying to find life in a dream or life in entertainment or find life in an addiction, you're going to be disappointed. We want to be careful that we're finding life in the right place. That is not where life is. It's not in the grave. Because Jesus rose from the grave. He conquered death.

Now He's got forty days. He's not in the grave. He takes a forty-day period of time and during these forty days His objective is to get out and share the message that He has conquered death, has risen from the dead, has power to provide to everyone available who wants to receive that resurrection power in their lives. He's got forty days to do it.

How would you do it if you had forty days? Maybe do a reenactment event. Maybe have it in a stadium where He can show up in the stadium. Maybe you'd do the Jerusalem version of Times Square. Or the Rome version of the United Nations. Or maybe social media so it could go viral so that everybody would know that He rose from the dead.

He doesn't do that. You might be surprised at what He does on resurrection morning. After He gets risen from the dead, where does He go? He goes on a road, He goes on a journey, He goes on a walk. And we're going to go on that walk with Him when He meets these two travelers. We don't even know their names at first. We don't even know who these guys are.

In Luke 24:13 it says – *Now that same day two of them (that's two of the followers of Jesus) were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.*

Two obscure guys. We are going to know one of the guys' names. We don't even know the other guy's name. The guy we know has never been mentioned in scripture before. You would think He'd appear to James and John and Peter, the three closest guys, the three friends of His. They were the closest that He spent time with when He was here on earth. Does He do that? No. He's on with two insignificant, obscure guys going toward a city.

Notice it says *to a village called Emmaus*. This is an insignificant city. We don't even know where it is today. We've got some guesses. But it wasn't even an important enough city so it appears in our maps today. We know where Jerusalem is. It was an important city. We don't even know where Emmaus was. So here Jesus was going on a walk with these guys who are going to Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem.

I want you to see the *to* and the *from*. That's important because these guys have got their back on where God is working. They've got their back now on the resurrection. They're heading in the wrong direction actually. They're trying to get to Emmaus, but Emmaus is the wrong direction for them. Jesus had told them, "I want you to remain in Jerusalem where the Holy Spirit is going to come down in a few days and give you power." They're going away from that. It's just so fascinating what happens here because Jesus is going to meet them on the road when they're going away in the wrong direction.

I want you to know this is something very true about Jesus. He wants to meet you on the detour of life. That's what He does. This is a detour. These guys are going in the wrong direction at first. At the end of our story they're going to turn around and go back the other way. But they're on a detour. So if you're on a detour today, I want you to know that God is after you. He's coming for you. He wants to come after you. That's what we call grace. Grace chases you down on your road. This isn't His road. This is their road. They're on a walk. Jesus is going to show up

in the midst of there because that's what grace is. Jesus reaches down into your road and He comes after you.

He's going to have a dialogue with these guys. We're going to see great things happening. But I want you to see you don't have to be perfect to have an encounter with Jesus. Jesus wants to meet you on your road, even if you're going the wrong way. This isn't about being perfect. These guys had a problem. We're going to see that develop through the story. We're going to see some really interesting things.

You have to understand the difference between religion and grace. Religion looks for ways to find and reach out to God. That's what religion is. I'm going to reach out to God. I'm going to find out what the ten digits are for His phone number. If I type them in in the right order – be righteous here, righteous here, give money here, volunteer here, I'm going to have integrity here. We type in the ten digits that we think God is going to answer on the other line. That's what religion does. It looks to find God through activity and actions and so on. Grace is different. Grace finds you.

Jesus is going to show up on a road here. These guys are not expecting Him. He's showing up on their road. It's just an amazing story that takes place because Jesus is after these guys.

Verse 14 says – *They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.* You know what they're talking about, right? They're talking about the crucifixion. They're talking about the expectations they had of Jesus. How He came in with the triumphant entry, He came in on the donkey, and everybody was bowing down to Him. The whole city of Jerusalem was excited about all this. This was big.

But the problem is now they're talking about it because they've lost something. They are disappointed. That's their main problem. They are disappointed with life. The death of what they had hoped for. They are disappointed. Things aren't going their way. This isn't what they expected.

You know what this is on your road. Whatever your road is you know you're walking along and you go, "Oh I'm so disappointed in my job situation," "I'm so disappointed in this relationship," "I'm disappointed with the pressures of life." You're on your road. You just have to know Jesus wants to show up in the road with you.

They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. The death of something they had hoped for. They are experiencing disappointment. It is a painful feeling to live with disappointment in our lives. That's what's happening in the midst of this and they're talking about it.

Verse 15 continues. *As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.*

I want you to see the first word there – *as. As they talked.* It wasn't after the conversation was over. It wasn't after everything was figured out. Jesus was right there in the middle of the conversation.

Isn't that great that God comes along in the middle of the things? He doesn't wait till it's all over and it's fine. If you have this picture of God and He shows up when the problems are all solved, then you're missing the beauty of what God has. It says *as they talked and discussed.* They were still trying to figure it out. They're relating to each other and Jesus is in the midst of the dialogue with them. What a beautiful picture.

Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. He didn't send an emissary. He didn't send an angel. It says that He *came up and walked along.* He walked with them. He could've called an Uber. I need an angel Uber here. You know one of those self-driving chariots. Please get it over here. He doesn't do that. He walks along with them.

You just have to appreciate the beauty of Jesus here, how He's walking along with them. He didn't take them out of the struggles. He walks with them through the struggles. That's the Jesus that we have. He will walk with you right now in the midst of the struggle, in the midst of the disappointment, and He'll move through that with you. Wow. It's just a beautiful thing. I just love Jesus walking along the road with them. He's with them along the road.

The next phrase is fascinating to me. Verse 16 – *but they were kept from recognizing him.* They were kept from recognizing Him. It doesn't say they didn't recognize Him. That's not what it says. There was something keeping them from recognizing Him.

If you want to have an encounter with the Resurrection Christ in your life, you have to find out what's keeping you from receiving that and seeing Him and understanding who He is. You've got to find out what's preventing you from seeing what's on the road right in front of you. I think we miss out on some of the ordinary moments of joy because we can't see them because we're not perfect. We feel like I'm not perfect, so I can't see these moments of joy in my life. Life isn't going the way I'd like. Or we miss miracles on the road of life because we're so focused on ourselves.

They were kept from recognizing Him. They're missing the resurrection power of God that's right in front of them. Why? What is it that's hindering them from being able to see this? We don't know. I think I'm going to give you an idea as we continue on in this story.

Maybe you don't recognize the Lord working in your life right now. He's right around you working. Maybe you're so focused on the annoying parts of your spouse that you can't see what God wants to do. God wants to do amazing things. Sometimes we get focused on the mundane parts of our job, so we can't see what God is doing. Resurrection is waiting for us right next to us, right in front of us, but sometimes we get sucked in, we can't see it. We're so self-consumed we can't experience the resurrection Jesus right in front of us because something is keeping us back. We've got to figure out what that is and then we've got to deal with it. Sometimes we don't realize that the anger that we think is justified is really damaging our hearts. And then we

can't see what God wants to do right in front of us. We've got to look at the resurrection Jesus. What He's doing right in front of us.

Let's go to the next verse, verse 17. When Jesus comes up, interrupts their dialogue, steps into their lives. I've just got to say that my theology usually goes like this: God doesn't come until He's invited into your life. But you've got to see in this passage this kind of shakes my theology because Jesus steps right in whether you invite Him or not. He's right in there and He asks them, "Hey, I've got a question for you guys."

They're involved in a conversation. You know how it is when someone comes up and they get involved in your conversation. Well that's what's happening here. *He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"* Now this is so fascinating because here's Jesus, the God of creation who knows everything about everyone, who cares about every little thing. He has the hairs of our head numbered, He knows everything about everyone. He gets up to these guys and says, "Hey, what y'all talking about?" He just steps right in and asks them this question. It's just funny to me what's going on.

"What are you discussing together as you walk along?" Now at that moment when He asks that question and He shows up, they don't even know what to do. So they stop walking. It says *they stood still*. They're on the road, but now they've stopped for a moment.

It says *their faces downcast*. Now if you were Jesus and it's Resurrection Sunday and you can hardly wait to get out there, would you want to go hang around with sad people? No! You'd want to be with happy people. Right? Here's an interesting thing. Jesus cares about our tears. Jesus cares about our pain. Jesus cares about our disappointment. He cares about our despair. He cares about our anxiety or depression. You don't have to be happy for God to work in your life. You don't have to be happy for God to come alongside and care about your specific needs. Even when your face is downcast, you can have a heart that's open to Jesus.

I want to make another point about this. Here their faces are downcast. We don't know exactly, but it's got to be mile one or mile two on a seven-mile journey. I say it's got to be mile one or mile two because there's so much that happens between this first part and when they arrive when they have this whole Bible study. So it's got to be mile one or mile two.

I look at this and you know what I say? You can't judge the journey in the first two miles. You can't judge the journey until you're at the end of the journey. Because at the end of the journey you start looking back and you say, "Whoa, I was learning some things back there." But we are tempted to judge the journey too early. Seven miles they've got to go. It took seven days to march around Jericho before the walls fell down. It took seven days for God to create the world. Actually it took six days. On the seventh day He rested. Not because He was tired, but because He was done. God takes these seven days to do creation and He has seven miles for these guys to walk. They've got a ways to go. You can't judge the journey too early.

Now we get to know about one of the guys' names. Verse 18 says – *One of them, named Cleopas*. Cleopas is his name. We don't even know the other guy's name. This guy's name is Cleopas. We never hear him mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. This is his moment.

Insignificant guys, but very significant for God. You may think you're really significant because in your little fish bowl you stand out. But if you look at the big fish bowl of life, we are nothing. People can't even find who we are. We are insignificant. But Jesus knows who we are and He goes after them.

This guy's name is Cleopas. Let's call him Cleo. We're getting to know him. He's on the walk with us. We'll call him Cleo. And Cleo *asked him*, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" Are you the only one who doesn't know these things? The only one who's visiting?

You have to imagine the irony of this verse. Here's the God of creation who knows everything about anything, and they're asking Him, "Are you the only one who doesn't know anything?" It's Jesus.

It's Jesus who knew when He came up to the woman at the well exactly what she needed. He says to her as they started talking, "Why don't you go to her husband?"

She says, "I don't have a husband."

He says, "You just told me the truth. I know you've had five husbands and the man you're with now isn't even your husband."

She's going, "Whoa." In fact after they talk a little bit more, she runs back to the town and says, "You've got to come out and see this guy telling me everything about my life." Because God knows everything about our hearts and our lives.

There was a woman who was caught in adultery, so they bring the woman up to Jesus to see if He's going to judge her. And you know what Jesus does? He gets down in the sand and starts writing. As He writes, each one of the accusers disappear until there's no accusers left and He says to the woman, "You are free to go. Don't continue in your sin." Now what was it that He was writing in the sand? Maybe He was writing in the offense of this guy and that guy, and as soon as they saw their offense in the sand, "I think I'll not be judging here," and took off. Jesus knows everything about all of us.

He sees Zacchaeus, the short guy sitting up in a tree, and He says, "Zacchaeus, you come down for I'm going to your house today." He knew that that guy needed to eat with Him and experience Him. In the midst of that meal, Zacchaeus gets up unprompted (except through the Holy Spirit), saying, "I'm going to give back all the money that I've cheated, plus extra. I'm going to give money to the poor." And Jesus says, "*Salvation has come to this house today.*"

Jesus knows about all of us. He knows everything. Isn't ironic that Cleopas says, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" My goodness. Jesus knows what's going on.

But it's fascinating to me how Jesus responds when even though Jesus knows the right answer, even though Jesus knows all the things that are going on, He gets this question and here's Jesus' answer. "*What things?*" he asked. You know why? Because He's going to let them talk about their pain. They need to pour it out. They need to share what's going on.

He listens to us as we pour out our pain to Him. As we explain the disappointment that we have in our lives. As we share the misery that we experience. He demonstrates His care by listening even though He knows the right answer. Wow. Some of us husbands and wives would benefit from not interrupting our mate, but showing that we love them by saying, “Okay, go ahead and tell me about it,” even though we know the answer already. Jesus does that. It’s fascinating.

Here’s what happens. When you’re able to share your pain with Jesus, when you’re able to talk to Him about it, when you’re able to give that to Him, something happens inside of your soul. He takes away the weariness that’s there. Don’t you feel just weary sometimes? But when you pour yourself out to the Lord... In fact these are Jesus’ words – *Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

“Let me tell you about it,” says Cleopas. He goes on to explain to the God of the universe, using words to describe to *the* word (remember He is the word; that’s how He’s described), and they’re using words to describe to Him what they think ought to happen here. Cleopas is basically saying to Jesus, “I’m going to tell you how you ought to run the world or how God ought to run the world.” That’s what he’s saying. This is how it ought to take place. If we find ourselves doing that, we’re going to be disappointed. I’ll give God some advice. This is how it should’ve taken place. I’m disappointed that it didn’t turn out the way that I hoped.

He goes on in his dialogue in Luke 24:19 – “I’m talking *about Jesus of Nazareth,*” Cleopas says. “*He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him.*”

Do you see the first words there in his statement? He says *he was a prophet.* That’s how they know Him, as a prophet. They’re going to get to know Him as Savior by the end of the story. We’ve got to keep moving in our journey here, keeping walking on the road in order to get there where He’s going to meet Him as the Savior. But right now, what do they say? *He was a prophet.* Well that’s so amazing.

Here they’re talking to Jesus who is the *I Am.* The word *I AM* is the name for God. In fact when Moses was talking to the burning bush and God speaking through the burning bush says to Moses, “Moses, I want you to go tell Pharaoh to let my people go.” And Moses says, “Hmm. God, if I tell him, he’s going to ask me, ‘Which god is it that’s talking to you?’ Because they’ve got so many gods over there. ‘Which one of the gods is telling you this?’ So what should I say is your name?” And God says, “Tell him *I AM* sent you.” The all-existent one. This is. That’s who He is.

In the New Testament Jesus was talking about Himself and He refers to Himself and He says in the midst of that, *I Am.* The Jews picked up stones to kill Him because they knew what that meant. That means He is calling Himself by the very name of the Father.

And now we have Cleopas saying *He was* to the great *I Am*. Could it be that sometimes we miss what's going on right now because we're in the past, what was. We miss the *I Am* because of what was going on in the past. That He was. I think that's what's going on with them. Are you missing what is because you're stuck in what was? If you're stuck in what was, you will not be able to experience God in the present right now, on the road as He wants you to. We get stuck in our own expectations of how things should go and what God should do and how we should act. Cleopas was so stuck in his own expectations that he couldn't see the great *I Am*.

Do you know what Jesus is doing? He's nodding. That's what He's doing in the midst of this because the story is going to continue. Look at what else he says in verse 21. *But we had hoped* (that means they had hope, but they lost it) *that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel*.

When you have disappointment, it means that you have lost hope. If you lose hope, then you're disappointed. That's why I say these guys are disappointed. You know as you're walking on your road, you know what that disappointment looks like in your own life. "I had hoped this would be over by now." "I had hoped that the medicine would fix it." "I had hoped that they would say yes." "I had hoped that I would have this job or that raise or that friend." "I had hoped that I would be further along by now." "I had hoped that they would appreciate me." "I had hoped that they would pay me back."

His experience left him downcast because he was disappointed. He lost hope. He was looking for God in the wrong places, and I think that's why He couldn't see Jesus at the moment. His own disappointment kept Him from seeing who was walking on the road with Him. Right in front of Him. He's standing next to the resurrection Himself and he can't see it. He doesn't recognize it right now at this moment.

And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. Funny he would throw that in there, the third day. Because Jesus a number of times had said, "And on the third day, I'm getting out of there. I'm going to rise from the dead." He told people and now it's the third day, they're saying. This is what happened in the midst of this. It's the third day.

In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning (looking in the wrong place for the resurrected Lord – looking at religion maybe instead of looking at relationship), *but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus*.

Now that's got to be the most ironic verse in the whole Bible. You see that? They did not see Jesus. Cleopas is saying they did not see Jesus while he's looking right at the guy and he doesn't see Jesus! So he's saying they went there and they didn't see Jesus. But he himself is looking right at Him and he can't see Him.

It is much easier for us to judge the road of someone else than to deal with our own road and address the things that are going on in our own hearts. That's what's happening here. Cleopas can see the problems of other people. He can see their mistakes that they made. It's easier to

judge the road of someone else than it is to figure out our own road and allow God to work in the midst of that.

Do you want to see Jesus? You've got to know that finding Jesus often takes place on the detours of life. Jesus comes alongside the middle of the journey of your road and He's walking along with your road. We're all on our own paths. You can experience the presence of Jesus today in your life. But it means you need to look for Him on the road, not in the tomb. He's on the road in your life, not just on Sunday. That's why we take Jesus home because we know that Jesus is on the path with us in the course of things.

Well Jesus speaks now starting in verse 25. *He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"* Suffer. Glory. Even Jesus on His road. Just think about the road that Jesus was on. Suffering and then glory. Well we want to just zip ahead to the glory part, don't we. I want the glory! I want the glory! Give me the glory! But the suffering is part of the road. So we experience the suffering and it's often in the midst of the suffering that Jesus meets us and reveals the glory to us. Wow.

And then comes this great Bible study. I would have loved to have been there. He says to them, *"How foolish you are."* And then verse 27 – *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.* Wow.

He started turning pages. Maybe in His mind He's turning the pages. He probably didn't have a Bible with Him, but He's turning the pages in His mind and He's talking about the law and how all those sacrifices were pointing to Jesus who would be the ultimate sacrifice. Looking at all the prophets and how the prophets were pointing to the Messiah and how He was the Messiah and how it all fit together. He's doing this great Bible study.

I want to tell you, if you're having trouble on the road and you don't see Jesus, where do you want to go? You want to go to the Bible and you want to look through the Bible and see Jesus in the pages of the Bible. Because when that happens, He's going to reveal Himself to you. He can handle your disappointment. He can handle your skepticism. He can handle your disbelief. He can handle your doubts. He can handle your fears. He can handle your pain. He can handle your brokenness. He can handle it all. Right? Because Jesus is on the road with you. You get into the word and you see Jesus and good things happen in the midst of that.

Verse 28 – *As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.* I just love the humor of Jesus in this whole story here. *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.

I just want to tell you, when you're on the road with Jesus and you start to see Him doing something in your life, you know what you say? Stay with me. I need more of this. I want to see you more. You started something in my life. I want you to continue it. That's what Philippians 1:6 says. *He began a good work in us and will complete it until the day of Christ.* That's what's happening. Cleopas is saying, "Stay with us. We want more." When you start seeing Jesus and

you start experiencing what He's doing in your life, you're going to say, "I want more of this. I want more of what God is doing." That's exactly what is taking place here in Cleopas' life. He's saying, "Would you go with me in the midst of this. Stay with me." *So he went in to stay with them.*

Now comes this last verse, which just caused me to feel goose bumps this week as I was preparing this. Verse 30 says this: *When he was at the table with them...* Now picture this. They invite Him to come in. He comes in, they sit at the table, *he took bread.* I want you to see what happens with Jesus. He's invited in as a guest, but He comes in as a host. Right? He takes the bread. Usually you would be served the bread if you were the guest. He comes in as a host.

God does that in your life and my life. You invite Him to come in and He takes over. He starts running your life. He controls your life. You can't say, "I need Jesus as my copilot." He's not the copilot. He's the whole plane. So you get in and Jesus controls your life. He takes over.

He's now the host and He took the bread. This is the bread of life. Jesus calls Himself the bread of life, the sustenance that we need. He's going to take the bread and He's going to break it. The last time we read about that was in the Last Supper. He took the bread, He broke it, and He said to His disciples, "This is my body, which was broken for you." He's saying this is the suffering in my body that's represented in communion. That's what happens in communion. This isn't communion that's taking place here. He just takes some bread and breaks it.

Notice in slow motion what happens here. *He took the bread, He gave thanks for the bread, broke it and He gave it to them.* Notice the next words. *Then their eyes were opened.*

What do you think they saw in that moment that was different than was on the path? What did they see in that moment that He was breaking the bread and handing it to them? What did they see that was different? I'll tell you what I think. This isn't written in the Bible. This is what I think happened. I think as He breaks the bread and He hands it to them, they see the nail prints in His hands. When they see the nail prints they're going, "Nail prints. Hands. Crucifixion. Jesus." You know that feeling when all of a sudden you get this new piece of information and everything you were thinking now has to be thrown up in the air and has to come back down in a new order.

One time my parents had a surprise birthday party for me when I was sixteen years old. They couldn't do it during my birthday, which is in June, so they did it in October. Because everything was so busy during June. So here I am walking in the garage, through the garage, talking to one of my parents. We walk in the door and all of a sudden all my friends are there and they're yelling, "Surprise! Happy birthday!"

Now in that moment my brain is fried. Whatever I was thinking is totally gone. I have to take this new piece of information now. It's in my brain, I'm trying to sort all this out because here are all my friends and I'm trying to figure it out. You know that feeling, right? Where all of a sudden you've got this extra information and everything else has to go around this new information. It's just crazy.

That's where they are in the midst of this. They recognize Him. Why? Because they see, I think, the nail prints in His hands and they say, "This is Jesus, the one that was explaining all those things on the road?" And then I think Cleopas is saying, "He's the one I said, 'Are you the only one visiting not knowing anything going on around here.'" So all this is coming to him fast. He's going, "This is who I am." Whoa! And it all came back in that moment.

It says – *Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.*

Why did He disappear? I want to tell you why I think He disappeared. He disappeared because He wasn't content to have them stuck on the detour. They needed to get back to Jerusalem. In fact the next verse is going to say they're packing up, probably in the dark, they walk all the way back to the Eleven, and know what they're going to say? We have seen the risen Lord. They had a message to share with the rest of the world. We've just got to tell them. We can't wait till morning. We've got to go now. They go on a detour. They go seven miles one direction, seven miles back in order to communicate this message that we have seen the risen Lord.

Jesus did not rise from the dead to just create this thing that we say He gets the resurrection or the Oscar for best resurrection or something. He did this because He wants to meet us on the road, give us His resurrection power so that we don't stay in the detours. We're going back. He came back from the dead so that we could go back to where we need to be. That's exactly what these guys do. They turn around and they go back and they start heading in the right direction.

Before they do, they make this statement. *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?"* Didn't we know something was going on back there?

Maybe you know right now in your life God's doing something. I'm not sure what it is that He's doing, but He's doing something in my life. Things are just working out in this kind of amazing way. This can't be just a coincidence that that happened and this happened and that other thing happened. Something's going on here and I don't even understand what it is. But God is doing something powerful.

It's not till mile seven that they realized what was going on in mile two. So don't judge the journey in mile two when you're not at mile seven yet. When you see Jesus and you understand who He is, then He starts to make sense of all of these other things that have been going on that may be going on in your life right now. We're waiting to understand Jesus, not just as prophet. Because that's how they understood Him at first. He was the prophet, they're saying. And now they're saying I think He's the Savior because now they see the nail prints in His hands and it changes who they are. Jesus is involved in the details of our lives, on the road of our lives. That's who He is. He's working in our lives.

See, we celebrate Easter once a year. It's powerful. We enjoy it and I'm glad you all came today. It makes my Easter really special, so thank you for coming. We had a great time today.

We'll all go home, but that's not the end of Easter. In fact did you know that our worship schedule, it used to be that they worshiped or the Jews had their holy day on Saturday. But they switched it over to the first day of the week. They started worshiping on the first day of the week. Probably because that's when Christ rose from the dead.

But it's not just every Sunday that we experience this resurrection, this Easter. We experience every day of our life on the road. On the road we can see Jesus if we'll get that stuff out of the way that's preventing us from seeing Him. We want to see Jesus. We want to understand who He is, we want to appreciate Him, and we want to enjoy Him in our lives.

Man, what a traveling adventure we took today. On the road. It's not something we leave on the road in our story. It's something we take home. It's something we take home with us because you want Jesus to appear in your life this week. You want Him to visit you this week. Watch what He's doing. God's doing amazing things.

Maybe you're here today and you know Jesus was a good man and He was a prophet, but you don't know Him as Savior yet. If you don't know Him as Savior yet, you're missing out on so much. So I want to invite you today to ask Jesus Christ to come into your life. To say, "I want Jesus to run my life. I want Him to come in and be the host. I want Him to control me." And when you do, He will. He'll come in. He'll reorganize your life. He'll change your priorities. He'll deal with your disappointment. He'll help you address the pain of your life.

It starts with understanding that Jesus Christ is a Savior. Well savior means somebody who saves somebody from something. Right? So you've got to know what you're being saved from. You're being saved from sin. Your personal sin, yes. But just the sin of the brokenness of our world. We're being saved from that when we ask the Savior to control our lives. If you've never made that commitment, you can make it today. I encourage you to ask Jesus Christ to come into your life, to trust Him as your own personal Savior.

Would you stand with me? Let's pray together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, I thank you that you walk with us on the road of life. Lord, it seems like regularly we experience disappointment. We can identify with these guys. We can understand the pain that they experienced because we experience the same kinds of things as well. So Lord, we ask that you would make yourself real to us. Reveal to yourself on the road of our own lives that you're working, that you're right there visiting us, caring for us, listening to us, pouring out our hearts. Teach us through your word more what it means to follow you and to love you. Teach us what it means to be connected to you in every step of our road. We ask in Jesus' name, amen.