

DCF:

He had planned on running track in college. While he was in high school, he set several state records in several events. He trained hard. He had his college life all mapped out, and life was going to be wonderful. Until the accident. While on a training run one late Friday afternoon, a drunk driver swerved off the road and hit him. A broken leg. A shattered hip. Nerve damage to his spine. His plans for college were upended in a moment. Months in therapy resulted in the ability to walk again, but that's all he could do. The doctors told him he would never run again.

Do you feel as if you've been hit by a runaway car in the last few weeks? We may have planned trips to far away places and looked forward to using an airplane. We may have planned out a major road trip to a special destination. And now, all we can do is walk. Walk around the neighborhood, maybe a park if it's open and we do the social distancing dance.

Frustrated that you can't travel like you used to? Me, too! But we can still travel. In fact, this morning our Lord encourages us to **“COME, WALK WITH JESUS.”** He has time for us. He'll put the pieces together for us and He gives us the joy we need in these stressful times. Come, let's start walking. It's time to take a hike!

### ***Part One: He has time for us***

Ever wonder why Jesus spent so much time after His resurrection with just two people? They weren't apostles. Only one of them was named by the scriptures - Cleopas. If they did anything noteworthy for the Lord, it's been lost to the mists of time. I picture them as just two regular guys, heading home to Emmaus and preparing for the work week ahead. And yet, Jesus spent hours with them. Why?

In our minds, we may think that Jesus could have spent His time in a more productive fashion. He's alive! He should be talking to as many people as He can. He could have been more efficient if He showed Himself right in the middle of a crowd at the temple that Sunday evening. Surely that would have been a better use of His time, right?

Well, no! Jesus, being God, does all things well. He does them perfectly, in the right way at the right time. Jesus knows it's the one on one, personal interaction that is most effective. Efficient? Probably not. But what He cares about is effectiveness, not efficiency. He knew that these men needed His attention, His voice at this time. Plus, He cared about the souls of these two men, walking the long, dusty trail back home to Emmaus. He took time out from being the ruler of the universe, the risen Lord almighty, to be a personal resource, a personal teacher to two regular guys who needed Him.

Jesus had time for them, and He has time for you. Oh, you may feel that you are an unimportant, insignificant being in this world. No one special. Just a millworker, a mechanic, a stay at home mom, a middle manager in a huge company. You haven't broken any athletic records, or made a fortune or have a son or daughter who's a doctor. You know, just a regular person. So why would God value me as much as the Apostle Paul, or even these two guys from Emmaus?

Because He loves you. He has called you to be His own even before the beginning of time. He knows each and every one of His sheep, and constantly cares for and protects us. Today, and every day, you have His total attention. He comes to you through His Word, talking to you and reminding you of His love. Don't worry about what else He may be doing. He's focused, today, on you. He has all the time in the world just for you and He wants to talk with you.

As He does, something wonderful happens.

### ***Part Two: He puts the pieces together for us***

Why, just look at what happened to the Emmaus disciples! These men were struggling when Jesus first appeared to them. That's one of the reasons why Jesus appeared to them. They needed help. Oh, they knew the facts of the last few days. Talking about Jesus, they said: ***“He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.<sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning<sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They***

**came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.** <sup>24</sup> **Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”** Notice the beginning of verse 21 - “we had hoped.” In faith, they believed Jesus was the Messiah, the One who would redeem Israel. But now, they weren’t sure. Is Jesus alive? Was He the Messiah? What are we to believe?

Jesus took time to walk with these men, and as He walked with them, He put the pieces together for them. **“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”** (v. 21) Boy, I wish I knew the passages that Jesus used. Or even better, I wish He had been videotaped. What a master class in Bible instruction that must have been! To have God Himself explaining how all those prophecies were fulfilled in the life of Jesus. Well, we do have Jesus speaking to us today. He speaks to us in His Word, and lays out for us all the prophecies, all the fulfillment of those prophecies and all of His love for us to see. His instruction class is written in the pages of Scripture. He’s put all the pieces together for us. All we have to do is take a walk with Jesus through the pages of the Bible. So, will we?

In our lives, we’re sometimes a little slow to believe. We haven’t put all the pieces together yet, have we? Has Jesus really paid for all our sins, or is there something that we have to do to earn it? Is Jesus really in control of all things? We see wars and rumors of wars. We suffer from cancer, from the corona virus, from accidents and the death of loved ones. Will Jesus really take care of our daily needs? Unemployment and recession seems to be raising its ugly head. And, is there really a place called heaven? We can’t see it. No one we know has come back from there. Will the Lord really take us to be with Him for all time?

How slow we often are to believe! The Holy Spirit urges us to take a walk. Walk with Jesus through His Word. He’ll put the pieces together. Ready? Let’s walk! Let’s start at the foot of the cross, where Jesus tells us **“It is finished.”** (John 19:30). Yes, Jesus really has paid for our sins. We then walk to Psalm 46:1-3 where God tells us **“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”** Yes, God will help us in every area of our life. Keep walking to Acts 14:22 where God reminds us **“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.”** Then, let’s stop a bit at John 5:24, where Jesus reminds us **“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”** He puts the pieces together for us, doesn’t He? See what a walk with Jesus can do for you? The Holy Spirit wants to comfort and encourage you through the Word. Come, walk with Jesus.

Not only will He put the pieces together for you, He’ll also give you the joy that you need.

### **Part Three: He gives us the joy we crave**

Can you imagine the joy those Emmaus disciples had as Jesus put the pieces together for them? “Oh, so that’s how that prophecy is fulfilled!” As Jesus unfolded the Scriptures for them, they became more and more excited. Their hearts burned within them as they heard the voice of the Savior. When Jesus finally left them, they were so joyful that they had to walk all the way back to Jerusalem (about 7 miles at twilight) to share this wonderful news with their fellow believers, especially the main apostles still locked in that upper room. I wonder if they were there when Jesus appeared to them?

Remember the joy you had on Easter? Or, remember the joy you had when you first came to faith? Remember the smile that creased your face and the fire that burned in your heart when you realized that Jesus had cleansed you from all sin and restored you to a loving relationship with your heavenly Father? Is it still there? If not, where did it go? Jesus is still your Savior. He still wants you to have the peace that passes all understanding. Is that still in your heart?

Come, take a walk with Jesus and let Him restore your joy by putting the pieces back together. We have time to walk with Jesus during this extended slowdown in our lives. Why not take a three week walk with your Lord through the book of Luke? Start out by walking through a chapter a day and listening to the Good Shepherd. I’ll bet you a donut that you’ll finish in less than three weeks. As you read, the Holy Spirit will open your eyes and lift your spirit. You’ll get more interested and excited about what Jesus has accomplished. You will experience the joy of being a believer in the Lord. **“COME, WALK WITH JESUS!”**

AMEN