

His Story, My Story - Session 7

Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-37)

Sharing exercise

Can you tell us briefly about one of the happiest times in your life?

Introduction

I am going to tell you a story from the Bible. We are actually going to hear this story three times. The first time, I want you to imagine the story. The second time, I want you to remember the story. And the third time, you are going to help me tell the story. Listen carefully because you are going to have to help me retell it, and we'll also talk some more about the story afterwards.

This story is told in the Bible my Luke.

First time

Late in the afternoon, on the Sunday after Jesus died, two of his followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem. As they walked along, they talked about Jesus' death on the cross. Then Jesus caught up with them and began walking beside them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

He asked, 'What are you talking about so seriously as you walk along?'

They stopped, with sadness written across their faces. One of them, Cleopas, said, 'You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.'

'What things?' Jesus asked.

'The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,' they said. 'He was a prophet. He did powerful miracles. And he was a mighty teacher. We could all see that. But our chief priests and authorities handed him over to be executed—crucified even.'

'We were hoping he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. But three days ago, Jesus died on a cross.'



'Then early this morning, some women from our group went to his tomb. And they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and his body was gone, just like the women had said.'

Jesus said to them, 'Come on, men! Why are you being so foolish? Why are your hearts so slow when it comes to believing what the prophets have said? Didn't it have to be this way? Didn't the Anointed One have to go through that suffering before he entered his glory?'

Then Jesus started walking them through the scriptures. He began with the first book, Genesis, and kept going, quoting passages. He showed them how lots of sections spoke about him, and how he, the Messiah would die for the sins of the people.

By this time, they were getting near to Emmaus. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they said, 'No! Stay and eat with us. It's nearly evening; the day is gone.'



So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

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?'

Within an hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them. The disciples said to them, 'The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.'

'We know!' said the two from Emmaus. 'He joined us on the road.' And they began to tell their story.

When they reached the part about Jesus breaking the bread, Jesus himself suddenly joined them all in the room.

Second time

That same day, Sunday, two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem.



As they walked along, they talked about Jesus' death on the cross.



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But they were not able to recognize who he was.

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Third time

OK this time you get to tell the story. Let's tell it together as a group.

Discussion

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this story?
3. What can we learn about people from the characters in this story? (sometimes I ask, what choices did the person have? What do we learn about them from the choice they made?)
4. What can we learn about God/Jesus from this story?
5. This week, what do you want to change in your life because of this story? State your answer in the form "This week I want to..."
6. Who else needs to hear this story?



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