



3rd Sunday of Easter - Luke 24: 13-35

‘What are you discussing?’

Walking north on the Jaffa Road, heading toward the coastal plain of Sharon, Cleopas said to his friend, “We should easily be able to reach the village of Emmaus before dark.” It was only seven miles.

Cleopas continued: “We can share a nice evening meal, spend the night and continue early the next morning.” His traveling companion said nothing and sighed at the prospect of all this travel.

It had been hectic getting away from Jerusalem. As always, the first day after Sabbath was doubly busy. They had stayed longer than planned, talking to Peter and the others about the shocking events concerning Jesus these last few days.

But now, at last, they were on their way. Now there

was time to really talk about the crucifixion and how early this morning the women had seen a vision of angels at Jesus’ empty tomb. As Cleopas chattered on, they began to walk at a fast pace, matching the excitement in his words.

Another of the people heading north along the Jaffa Road, a lone man, fell into this fast pace with Cleopas and his friend.

“What are you discussing as you go your way?” he asked them. Cleopas was amazed that this man hadn’t heard about the crucifixion of Jesus and told the story again. After hearing this the stranger challenged their beliefs, reminding them that all of these things had been foretold by the prophets. “Did not the Messiah have to undergo all of this to enter into his glory?” he asked them.

When they reached Emmaus the stranger was going to continue farther, but Cleopas was intrigued by his wisdom and invited him to stay with them and share a meal.

They sat together and Cleopas opened his bag and produced a loaf of bread. He handed it to the stranger who then took the loaf, broke it and then blessed the bread.

Suddenly, Cleopas and his friend recognized that it was Jesus with them. Jesus slowly and ceremoniously handed them the bread. As their eyes of understanding were opened, they all began to smile at each other. Silently a sense of peace and love enclosed them in the moment.

Moved deeply, Cleopas bowed his head and closed his eyes. When he looked up Jesus was gone. Frozen in amazement, Cleopas could not move from where he sat. Slowly he turned his head toward his friend who was staring, wide-eyed, at where Jesus had been. Without hesitation they both rose and began to run back toward Jerusalem where they would find Peter and tell him about the miracle they had just experienced.



In each of our life’s journeys be assured, we will encounter Jesus along the way. He comes to us in different ways and we may not always be able to recognize him. He may come as a stranger on the road or a newcomer in our midst. He may come as an act of love from someone we know. We may see him in a time of great trial or he may simply be there smiling to us through the face of a flower, or in the sound of a song or by the glow of a sunset. May we be ever-vigilant for his presence. He is risen, He is among us here and now!