



That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened, (Luke 24:13-14)

I have been thinking about these verses and even wrote a devotional about them recently. These verses come from the “Road to Emmaus” narrative in Luke 24. This is the account of two disciples heading to Emmaus after that first Easter Sunday. They had just learned that Jesus’ tomb was empty and that some angels told the women that Jesus was alive. Of course this did not make sense. And so off they go, discussing the events of the day without any understanding of what this all meant. In a sense, they were heading in the wrong direction when all the action was happening in Jerusalem.

What I like about this text is that even though they are heading in the wrong direction, Jesus does not just show up, reveal himself, and then command them to return. Rather, Jesus shows up and walks with them as they head in the wrong direction. Jesus meets them where they are at and gives us an example.

We encounter people every day who are heading in the wrong direction. You probably know people at work, in your neighborhood, in your family, or in your social circles who are heading to their Emmaus. They say they are “spiritual” but really, there is no connection with the Savior. They are “good” people, but the Spirit is not working in them to bring God glory. They may even attend a church periodically, but there is no relationship with the Father.

Therefore, when people are heading to “Emmaus”, trying to drag them to “Jerusalem” is not effective. We need to employ Jesus’ method, meeting people where they are at. Consider the four E’s:

(1) **Engage** people in relationships. Earn the right to be heard. This step could take months or years, but it is vitally important to be patient here.

(2) **Enlighten** people with the Gospel. Do this through words and actions. Tangibly show them the love of Christ. If you have earned the right to be heard, then they will take notice, and may even say something.

(3) **Enable** people to grow in their faith. You do this through honoring their questions and encouraging them to seek Jesus. Help them pray, read the Bible, etc. Show them what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

(4) **Empower** them to create disciples. Help them get involved in ministry. Walk with them. Do not simply turn them loose without guidance.

The actual day of Easter is in our rearview mirror, but the Good News of Easter is now and always. Go out on the road and meet people where they are at, bringing glory to God.

Amen!



Classes resume on **April 10**. The focus this month will be getting ready for our **youth-led worship service** which will take place on **Sunday, April 28** during our regular morning worship. The confirmation class will plan and lead the entire service.

Our other big event will be our **annual year-end retreat** at Okoboji Bible Camp, **May 10-12** (Mother's Day weekend and Graduate recognition Sunday). After the retreat, we will then adjourn until the fall. Continue to pray for these students in their faith journey.