

## Slow to Believe (Luke 24:25-35)

### Introduction

In this chapter of Luke, we find two followers of Jesus that were headed from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Just two days prior Jesus had been crucified and buried. His followers were disappointed because their hopes had been dashed. They had held out hope that God was going to change their situation, but it seemed as though things had only gotten worse. As they walked, they talked about the events of recent days.

Jesus joined these two men on their journey, but they didn't recognize Him (Luke 24:16). He asked them what was wrong and with sadness they recounted the recent events – both the men assuming that Jesus was unaware of all that had happened in Jerusalem. Jesus listened patiently, but after a little while He chastised them for being slow of heart to believe what the Scriptures had said concerning Him (Luke 24:25).

Jesus took them back to the Word to address their lack of faith. This lack of faith had affected their feelings. Still, knowing what the Scriptures said wasn't enough for the two men to recognize who was with them. The two men on the Emmaus road had to walk with Jesus and spend time with Him, breaking bread and fellowshiping in order to recognize who He was and experience a change in how they felt (Luke 24:32). Connecting to the Word through relationship is what brought about the change.

While studying Scripture is crucial, we must allow this written Word to cultivate our relationship with the Living Word, Christ. Just like the two men that met with Jesus, it is through our proximity to Him as He reveals Himself to us that we can recognize Him and experience transformation.

### Getting Started

1. We see in today's passage that emotional stability can be tied to the willingness of an individual to turn to the written Word and cultivate a relationship with the Living Word. Have you found this to be true in your own life? Does your level of discouragement or disappointment shift relative to the amount of time you are spending with the Father?
2. When you spend time with God, what is typically the best time of day that works for you?

### Let's Get Personal

1. How have you felt disappointed by God? How has this discouragement affected the way you live your life?
2. What are you doing to cultivate your intimacy with the Living Word, Christ?
3. What role does Scripture play in cultivating that intimacy?
4. Jesus helped these two men to search the Word. Who in your life helps you to find comfort through the Scriptures?
5. What are some other practices or spiritual disciplines you have found helpful in cultivating intimacy with Christ?
6. Once the two men "recognized Him", how did that affect them? How should your encounters with Jesus affect you?

### Take the Next Step

1. As we near the close of one year and begin to think about the next, what changes will you make in terms of the amount of time or part of the day you spend with Him?
2. What will you do practically this week to make more time to spend with Jesus?
3. Would you like to read and reflect more? Read earlier parts of this same chapter. Who did act in faith and believe that Jesus rose from the dead as he said he would? What did this person do as a result? How did others react?

### Renew Your Mind

*...it is these (scriptures) that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life." John 5:39-40*

