

RADICAL EVIDENCE - PART 1

The testimony of Cleopas

Dr. Derek Morris

Preaching passage:	Luke 24:13-32
Subject:	How did the two disciples on the road to Emmaus respond after they met Jesus, listening to His teachings, and finally recognized Him
Complement:	they believed that He was the Messiah
Exegetical idea:	When the two disciples on the road to Emmaus met Jesus, listened to His teachings and finally recognized Him, they believed that He was the Messiah.
Preaching idea:	Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you!
Purpose:	To encourage my hearers to examine the evidence regarding Jesus as the Messiah and to accept Him as their personal Savior.

Introduction

Only Luke records the story. Not a word from Matthew, or Mark, or John. And at first reading, the story leaves us with more questions than answers. And yet, as I studied the story of the Emmaus Road in preparation for today's message, I sensed that I was walking on holy ground!

The story that I'm referring to is found in Luke 24, beginning with verse 13. "Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem." What "same day" is Dr. Luke referring to? Go back to Luke 24:1. This is the day that Christians call "Easter Sunday." The first day of the week. Jesus was crucified on Friday. Rested in the tomb on the Sabbath day. And on the first day of the week, the women come to the tomb and the stone has been rolled away. Two angels share the glorious news, recorded in Luke 24:5-6: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

It is "that same day", according to Luke, that two "of them" were going to a village called Emmaus." Who does the "of them" refer two? "Two of them"? Well, according to Luke 24:9,


the women who heard this glorious testimony from the angels gave a report “to the Eleven and to all the others.” Do you see that in Luke 24:9? The close followers of Jesus had been referred to as the Twelve. But Judas had denied Jesus and betrayed Him with a kiss. Simon Peter had also denied Jesus and betrayed Him with a curse. But Simon Peter had repented with tears. Judas, on the other hand, had experienced only remorse and hanged himself. So now there were Eleven, rather than the Twelve. But please notice in Luke 24:9 that the women gave their testimony about Jesus being risen from the dead not only to the Eleven, but “to all the others.” Jesus had many more disciples than just the Twelve. Luke records, at the beginning of the book of Acts, that there were about 120 followers of Jesus.

The two walking on the road to Emmaus were “two of them.” Two disciples of Jesus. One of these disciples is identified in Luke 24:18. His name was...Cleopas. Who was Cleopas? Eusebius, in the 4th century AD came up with the idea that Cleopos was the brother of Joseph, and therefore the uncle of Jesus. Recently, someone has proposed that Cleopas married Mary, mother of Jesus, after she became a widow. Neither of these positions is overtly supported in Scripture. Some have wondered if Cleopas is the same as the Clopas mentioned by John in John 19:25. In John 19:25, we read, “Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.” If Cleopas and Clopas are one and the same, then Cleopas' wife was one of the holy women who followed Jesus. She was present at the cross with Mary the mother of Jesus, with Mary's sister, and with Mary Magdalene. She may also have been among the group of women at the tomb who heard the glorious report from the angels, “He is not here! He is risen!”

That conclusion seems to be supported by a comment that Cleopas makes later in Luke

24:22 when he says, “some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.”

But as we'll discover from the next part of the story, Cleopas is skeptical about the report. Perhaps you're wondering about the other disciple. Who was he? We don't know. Some have suggested that this was Matthias, the one who would later become the replacement for Judas, one of the Twelve. But Dr. Luke doesn't provide that information. There is one interesting piece of information that Luke provides. In Luke 24:29, these two disciples say, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” What can you learn from that comment? Stay with us? Perhaps these two disciples were related. That's certainly possible. Like the brothers Peter and Andrew. Or James and John. Perhaps this was Cleopas and this brother. Or perhaps this was a father and son. Apparently, they are staying in the same house and they are both disciples of Jesus.

Some of you might be thinking, “We don't know very much about these two individuals. Cleopas could be Clopas, but we're not sure. And we don't know the identity of the other disciple. Where was Emmaus?” Unfortunately, we don't know that either! Emmaus was not a city with walls, like Bethlehem or Jerusalem. That was called a , from which we get our English word metropolis. But Emmaus is referred to as a village, a smaller settlement. This is the only place in Scripture that Emmaus is mentioned. Archeologists are not sure of its location, though the text tells us that it was about 60 stadia from Jerusalem. A stadion was about 607 feet. So 60 stadia is a little under 7 miles if you're traveling in a straight line. Probably 7-8 miles on a winding road. That distance is important for us, because it let's us know how

long the disciples were walking on that road. It also gives us a clue as to when they began their journey.

How long would it take to walk 7-8 miles? About two hours at normal walking speed. But probably the walk to Emmaus took longer. They were talking together as they walked on the way. And Luke tells us that when they arrived at Emmaus it was already dusk. The sun sets in that region at about 6:30 in the evening. So we can infer that these two disciples left Jerusalem in the early afternoon. They had heard a report from “their women” earlier in the day and now they were heading home to their small village of Emmaus. Apparently, they had not heard the testimony of Mary Magdalene who met with Jesus near the garden tomb.

So these two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus, talking about the events of the past few days. And this is where the story takes an interesting turn. Look with me at Luke’s record in Luke 24:14-16. “They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.”

Jesus, the Risen Lord, catches up with them on the road. But notice, “they were kept from recognizing him.” What does that mean? Did Jesus look different after His resurrection? I don’t think so. Other disciples recognized Him instantly. So what is going on here? They were kept from recognizing Him. Apparently, what’s happening isn’t natural. Something supernatural is going on. Listen carefully to the rest of the story and I think that you’ll understand why they were kept from recognizing Jesus at first.

Let’s read on in Luke 24:17. “He asked them, ‘What are you discussing together as you walk along?’ They stood still, their faces downcast.” You get the impression that they were

almost speechless. Shocked. Like “Where have you been?” Then Cleopas expresses his thoughts in words. Luke 24:18 “One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, ‘Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?’”

You can pick up a little amazement in Cleopas’ voice. But Jesus coaches Cleopas to share his thoughts. “What things?” Jesus asked. We can read Cleopas’ response in Luke 24:19-24 “‘About Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied. ‘He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 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. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.’”

What do you hear in Cleopas’ testimony? Disappointment. Discouragement. Doubt. Cleopas calls Jesus “a prophet, powerful in word and deed” but he doesn’t call Jesus Messiah. And Cleopas doesn’t say, “The women saw angels who said the Jesus was alive.” But rather “they came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive.” Do you hear a difference? Cleopas and the unnamed disciple are not walking along the road to Emmaus rejoicing the Jesus is the Messiah and that He is risen from the dead. They are disappointed. Discouraged. Doubting if Jesus was who they really thought he was.

And how does Jesus respond? Look at Luke 24:25-26. “He said to them, ‘How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ

have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?””

Why doesn't Jesus just say, "It's me! Jesus! I am risen from the dead!"? Any ideas. For the same reason that the disciples were kept from recognizing Him at first. Jesus has something very important to share with them. What would have happened if Jesus had boldly announced, "It's Me! Jesus! I am risen from the dead"? Those two disciples would have been so excited, they wouldn't have listened to a word more that He said.

But Jesus has something very important to share with them. In fact, in my opinion, it's the most important Bible study that was ever given. What was the content of that Bible study? Look with me at Luke 24:27. "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."

Don't you wish that you could have been there for that Bible study? Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself! We are going to prayerfully try to reconstruct that Bible study as part of this series of messages on The Emmaus Road, and it's my prayer that what happened to those disciples would also happen to us!

What happened to them? Look at their testimony in Luke 24:32. "They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' What do those words mean to you? "Were not our hearts burning within us? They were under conviction. They sensed that they were uncovering sacred treasure. They sensed that they were walking on holy ground.

Before Jesus met with them on the road and showed them all the evidence in the Scriptures concerning Himself their fire was going out. Now, their hearts were burning within

them! That's my prayer for each one of us as we take this journey together over the next few weeks. I'm praying that our hearts would burn within us as we discover the truths of God's Word which clearly point to Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior of the world!

But perhaps some who have never read this story before are wondering if those two disciples on the Emmaus road ever did recognize that it was Jesus who was speaking to them. The answer is "Yes!" And here is how it happened. Look with me at Luke 24, beginning with verse 28. "As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight."

As Jesus broke the bread, they recognized Him! Was it the way that Jesus broke the bread? Or did they see the nail prints in His hands? Or was it now God's appointed time for the veil to be lifted? We're not sure. But this much is certain. When Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, they recognized Him!

And then something else supernatural happened. Jesus disappeared from their sight. They would see Him again in the upper room after they had hurried all the way back the 7-8 miles to Jerusalem, this time in the dark! That's a combined distance of almost two thirds of a marathon. But they were excited! Their hearts were still burning within them. Luke records in Luke 24:35 that when they found where the Eleven were assembled, "Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread."

It is a joyful experience when a person recognizes Jesus for who He really is! Not just a

prophet, powerful in word and deed, but as Messiah, Savior. And not just Savior of the world, but your personal Savior. Cleopas and the unnamed disciple experienced that joy when they recognized Jesus as more than a prophet. He was their Messiah. Their Savior. Their Risen Lord.

(Share a compelling testimony from the 21st century of someone who has examined the evidence and has come to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God).

It's my prayer that as we continue this Radical Evidence series that your heart will also burn within you as you hear the truth about Jesus, and that you will recognize Jesus, your Messiah, as the One who wants to walk with you.

RADICAL EVIDENCE - PART 2

The testimony of Moses

Dr. Derek Morris

Preaching passage:	Luke 24:27a, 32
Subject:	Why did the hearts of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus burn within them when Jesus showed them everything in the writings of Moses concerning Himself
Complement:	because all these things confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah.
Exegetical idea:	The hearts of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus burned within them when Jesus showed them everything in the writings of Moses concerning Himself because all these things confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah.
Preaching idea:	Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you!
Purpose:	To encourage my hearers to examine the evidence in the books of Moses regarding Jesus as the Messiah and to accept Him as their personal Savior.

Introduction

I've been walking on the Emmaus Road in my imagination this past week, trying to overhear the conversation between Jesus and two of His disciples. If you were with us for the first sermon in this series, you'll remember that Cleopas and another unnamed disciple were making their way home. They had left Jerusalem in the early afternoon and as they walked on the road to Emmaus, they were talking together about everything that had happened in the past three days. Their Master, Jesus, had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by a kiss. There had been a mockery of a trial. Even the Roman procurator, Pontius Pilate, had declared that Jesus was innocent, but the religious leaders had demanded that Jesus be put to death. Then there was the spitting and the beating and that dreadful flogging. How could God allow Messiah to be treated like that? And then the crucifixion. Suspended naked between heaven and earth. Didn't the Scriptures say "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree?" (Deut 21:23; Gal 3:13) How could these things have happened to Messiah? Or perhaps Jesus wasn't Messiah after all. Cleopas and his friend were so struggling. They had heard the report of the

women who went to the tomb where Jesus was laid. Two angels had announced to the women, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!” Luke 24:5b-6a. But these two disciples were obviously still struggling with disappointment, discouragement, and doubt.

As they talked together, a stranger joined them. We learned in part 1 of this Radical Evidence series that this stranger was none other than Jesus, the Risen Christ. But Dr. Luke tells us that these two disciples were kept from recognizing him. Jesus meets them in the midst of their disappointment, discouragement and doubt, and decides to give them a Bible study—the most amazing Bible study ever given! Take your Bible and turn with me to Luke 24:27. “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

Today, we are going to prayerfully attempt to reconstruct the first part of that amazing Bible study. “And beginning with Moses...he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself!” I always used to say, “I wish someone had written that Bible study down!” But I am convinced now that Jesus wants us to search for ourselves! What do you think? Jesus wants us to reconstruct that Bible study so that our hearts can also burn within us as we see from the testimony of all of the Scriptures that Jesus is indeed the Messiah!

Before we begin to search the writings of Moses for information about the Messiah, let me ask you a question. Why do you think that Jesus begins His amazing Bible study by sharing the testimony of Moses? There are more than 1000 prophecies and types in the Old Testament fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. Most of them are not in the books of Moses. Most of those prophecies and types are in the Prophets and the Psalms. So why does Jesus begin His amazing

Bible study with the testimony of Moses? There are a couple of possible answers. An obvious answer is that the Hebrew Scriptures begin with the books of Moses. The Hebrew Scriptures in the time of Jesus were divided into 3-parts: the books of Moses, also referred to as the Law, or the Torah, the Prophets, and the Psalms and writings. We will be examining each of these three testimonies in this Emmaus Road series: the testimony of Moses, the testimony of the Prophets, and the testimony of the Psalmists. So perhaps Jesus begins with the testimony of Moses because Moses comes first, at the beginning of the Hebrew Scriptures. “Let’s start at the beginning and go all the way to the end!” And without a doubt, the writings of Moses were highly esteemed by the Jews.

A second possible reason why Jesus started this amazing Bible study with the testimony of Moses is that Jesus met these two disciples where they were. Perhaps they were talking about the writings of Moses, and Jesus started where they were, and opened all of the Scriptures to them. That happened when Philip the deacon met an Ethiopian official on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Dr. Luke records in the book of Acts that Ethiopian official was traveling in his chariot, reading a prophecy about the Messiah in the book of the prophet Isaiah. We’ll study Isaiah’s amazing prophecy about Messiah in detail in part 3 of this Emmaus road series! When Philip the deacon ran up alongside the chariot, the Ethiopian invited him to join him in his study. We read the account in Acts 8:34-35. “The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?’ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.”

Notice, Philip started his Bible study with Isaiah the prophet. He started where this Ethiopian was. That’s a lesson for all of us. Don’t start where someone isn’t! That’s not going

to work. Meet people where they are! Perhaps the two disciples on the road to Emmaus were discussing the writings of Moses as they walked along. And Jesus meets them where they are. Isn't that just like Jesus to meet us right where we are?!

Whatever the reason, Dr. Luke records that Jesus began this amazing Bible study with these two disciples by focusing on the testimony of Moses concerning the Messiah. And not just anything concerning Messiah, but particularly the issue of whether or not Messiah would have to suffer. Look again at Luke 24:26 "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Jesus said.

You see, the Jews expected Messiah to be a victorious conqueror. They expected Messiah to throw off the yoke of Rome and restore Israel to its former glory. That's why these two disciples on the road to Emmaus were struggling to understand what had just happened to Jesus. Jesus had been beaten, mocked, flogged, killed. That's not how they had expected Messiah to be treated.

So where would Jesus have started in the writings of Moses? I imagine that Jesus might have started with the word of hope recorded in Genesis 3:15. Our first parents had both sinned against God. Eve had listened to the seductive lie of that old serpent, the Devil, and Adam had willfully joined her in rebellion against God. But God did not abandon them. Speaking in their presence, God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

He, that is one of the offspring of the woman, will crush the head of the serpent. That is the first mention of a Deliverer, a Redeemer, who will come. Notice, this Redeemer will be part of the human family. The apostle Paul clearly identifies this Offspring, this Seed of the woman,

as Jesus Christ. (Gal 3:16) This One would crush the serpent's head—that old serpent, the Devil, and Satan, as the apostle John calls him in Rev 12:9. But notice, the serpent would also strike the Redeemer's heel. The Messiah would suffer. "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

I imagine that Jesus reminded these two disciples of the story of the great patriarch Abraham and his son Isaac, recorded by Moses a little farther on in the book of Genesis. Isaac was a miracle child—the child of promise. Abram's wife, Sarai, was barren, but God promised Abram that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars of heaven. And the LORD God was faithful to His promise. Sarai conceived and bore a son. Isaac was a fulfillment of God's promise, and Abram and Sarai received new names: Abraham and Sarah!

And then, Moses records that the LORD God tested Abraham. The story is found in Genesis 22, beginning with verse 1. "....." (1-14)

YHWH Yireh. Jehovah Jireh. The LORD will provide. The LORD will provide what? The LORD will provide a sacrifice. Perhaps Abraham thought that his own son Isaac was the Redeemer—the seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head. Perhaps Isaac was the Messiah. But Abraham was told, "The LORD will provide."

Two thousand years later, Jesus testified in John 8:56, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." Why was Abraham glad as he looked forward by faith? He was glad that the LORD will provide. He is Jehovah Jireh! And on that same mountain where the LORD God spoke to Abraham and Isaac, on that same Mount Moriah, more than two thousand years later, the LORD did provide. On that same mountain, also called Mount Zion, the LORD did provide! Perhaps Jesus reviewed this story with His two disciples on

the road to Emmaus.

Perhaps Jesus reminded the two disciples about the first Passover, as the children of Israel were about to leave Egypt. Each family was directed by God to take the blood of a lamb and put that blood on the doorpost of their dwelling. You can read the story in Exodus chapter 12. Now the death of that lamb didn't accomplish anything in itself. It was a symbol, pointing forward to the Lamb that the LORD God would provide. Who was that Lamb? John the Baptist declared that Jesus was that Lamb! "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Did the disciples not understand that the Lamb would be slain? "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

I imagine that Jesus told a story recorded in the second book of Moses, the book of Exodus. We can read the story in Exodus 17:1-6. "....." Who did that Rock represent? The Psalmist declares, "To you, I call, O LORD my Rock." Psalm 28:1 and in Psalm 95:1, we read, "Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul specifically refers to the Rock that Moses struck in the wilderness, and says in 1 Cor. 10:4, "(they) drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ."

So what did it mean that the rock was struck? Why did the LORD God instruct Moses to strike the Rock? I imagine Jesus asking the two disciples that question as they walked along the road to Emmaus. When the Rock was struck, a stream of life flowed forth. So Messiah would be stricken and a stream of life would flow forth. "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

But someone might ask, “Didn’t Jesus say in Luke 24:26, “.....” Does Moses testify anywhere about Messiah entering into glory? It’s clear from the testimony of Moses that Messiah would suffer, Messiah would be smitten. But what about a glorious ending?”

Well, I’m going to give you that homework assignment! Remember, Jesus doesn’t give us the whole Bible study in outline form because He wants us to search for ourselves. So do some study. Search the Scriptures. Jesus said, “These are they the testify of Me.” John 5:40

I will share one testimony of a glorious ending. It’s not found in the 5 best known books of Moses. It’s found in a book that was written even before the book of Genesis—a book that many believe was written by Moses during his 40 year sojourn in the wilderness of Midian. It’s the story of a man of God named Job who lived in the land of Uz. Now we could spend a whole hour studying the book of Job, but I want to focus on the words of Job, recorded in Job 19:25. There Job declares, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.”

The story of Messiah doesn’t end with sufferings and death. Our Redeemer lives, and in the end He will stand upon the earth! Did Jesus share those words recorded by Moses with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus? We don’t know for sure. But this much we do know. As Jesus opened the Scriptures to them, beginning with the testimony of Moses, and showing them everything concerning Himself, their hearts burned within them. Why? Because it became absolutely clear to them that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. His sufferings and death did not disqualify Him from being the Messiah. Rather, His sufferings and death demonstrated that He was indeed the Messiah. That precious truth will become even more clear in part 3 and 4 of our Radical Evidence series.

Before Moses died, he prophesied in Deuteronomy 18:15, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.” Who was that prophet of whom Moses spoke? In the time of Jesus, the Jews were still waiting for that prophet.” In fact, they asked John the Baptist, “Are you the Prophet?” (John 1:21), referring back to the prophecy of Moses. But John the Baptist said, “I am not.” John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness. He had come to prepare the way for that Prophet. That prophet was Jesus Christ. The Word of God made flesh. This was the One of whom Moses testified.

But there something that troubled me from my study of this passage of Scripture. It’s true that after Jesus gave this amazing Bible study to those two disciples on the road to Emmaus that their hearts burned within them. That’s the good news. But I want you to listen to the testimony of Jesus spoken later that same day to the larger group of disciples, including the two who were with him on the road. We read that testimony earlier in our study today. It’s found in Luke 24:44. “He (Jesus) said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’”

Jesus had told them these things before His sufferings and death. He had told them that everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.” There was no need for those two disciples to have been downcast that day. If they had diligently searched the Scriptures, their hearts would have burned within them with the clear conviction that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

But these disciples had allowed their preconceived ideas to blind their eyes. Jesus had clearly declared, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the

chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.” Mark 10:33-34 Why didn’t the disciples believe those words? Why weren’t they rejoicing all weekend that Jesus would rise on the third? Why weren’t they praising God as they walked on the road to Emmaus?

It’s easy for us to sit in judgment on them. But I have a question for you. I have a question for myself. Are we diligently searching the Scriptures to learn more about Jesus, our Messiah? Are we setting aside our preconceived ideas and letting God’s Word be a light to our feet and a lamp to our path?

The testimony of Moses clearly points to Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior of the world. And Jesus, your Messiah, your Savior, wants to walk with you. He wants to open your eyes, to open your understanding. Remember the testimony of the two disciples on the Emmaus Road? Luke 24:32. “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” I’m praying that you would have a similar experience as you search the Scriptures for yourself, and that your heart will be filled with joy as you discover that Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you.

RADICAL EVIDENCE - PART 3
The testimony of the Prophets
Dr. Derek Morris

Preaching passage: Luke 24:27, 32
Subject: Why did the hearts of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus burn within them when Jesus showed them everything in the writings of the Prophets concerning Himself
Complement: because all these things confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah.
Exegetical idea: The hearts of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus burned within them when Jesus showed them everything in the writings of the Prophets concerning Himself because all these things confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah.
Preaching idea: **Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you!**
Purpose: To encourage my hearers to examine the evidence in the books of the Prophets regarding Jesus as the Messiah and to accept Him as their personal Savior.

Introduction

I've been walking on the Emmaus Road again this past week, trying to overhear the conversation between Jesus and two of His disciples. If you were with us for the first sermon in this Radical Evidence series, you'll remember that Cleopas and another unnamed disciple were making their way home. They had left Jerusalem in the early afternoon and as they walked on the road to Emmaus, they were talking together about everything that had happened in the past three days. Their Master, Jesus, had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by a kiss. There had been a mockery of a trial. Even the Roman procurator, Pontius Pilate, had declared that Jesus was innocent, but the religious leaders had demanded that Jesus be put to death. Then there was the spitting and the beating and that dreadful flogging. How could God allow Messiah to be treated like that? The Word of the Lord had been fulfilled, as recorded by the prophet Zechariah: "Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered." Zechariah 13:7

As these two disciples talked together on the road to Emmaus, a stranger joined these two

scattered sheep. We learned in the first message in this series on the Emmaus Road that this stranger was none other than Jesus, the Good Shepherd! He had come to care for His sheep! But Dr. Luke tells us that these two disciples were kept from recognizing him. Jesus met them in the midst of their pain, in the midst of their disappointment, in the midst of their discouragement and in the midst of their doubt, and gave them a Bible study—the most amazing Bible study ever given! Luke tells us in Luke 24:27, “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

In the second message in this series on Radical Evidence, we examined the testimony of Moses concerning Messiah. We discovered that every prophecy about Messiah written in the books of Moses was fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. If you missed that message, you can watch it or download the MP3 audio file at www.forestlakechurch.org.

Today, we are going to prayerfully attempt to reconstruct at least portions of the second part of that amazing Bible study. We read in Luke 24:27, “And beginning with Moses **and all of the Prophets** he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself!” As I mentioned in our last study, I always used to say, “I wish someone had written that Bible study down!” But I am convinced now that Jesus wants us to search the Scriptures for ourselves! What do you think? Jesus wants us to reconstruct that Bible study so that our hearts can also burn within us as we see from the testimony of all of the Scriptures that Jesus is indeed the Messiah!

So what prophecies concerning Messiah from the Hebrew Prophets do you think that Jesus might have quoted to His two disciples on the road to Emmaus?

Perhaps Jesus mentioned the prophecy of the prophet Micah concerning Messiah. That prophecy concerning Messiah was given 700 years before Jesus was born. Look at Micah’s

prophecy with me, recorded in Micah 5:2. “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” That prophecy of the prophet Micah was fulfilled 700 years later when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Listen to the testimony of Luke, in Luke 2:1-7. “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Matthew records in Matthew 2:1-2, “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’” Jesus didn’t choose where He would be born! His mother Mary was living in Nazareth. Her husband Joseph was living in Nazareth. But at the right time, in the right place, a prophecy concerning Messiah was fulfilled, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah.

Perhaps Jesus mentioned the prophecy of the prophet Zechariah concerning Messiah. That prophecy was given more than 500 years before Jesus was born. Look at Zechariah’s prophecy with me, recorded in Zechariah 9:9. “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” That prophecy concerning Messiah was

fulfilled more than 500 years later in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Luke records in Luke 19:28-40, “After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’” Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ They replied, ‘The Lord needs it.’ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’ ‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.’ Prophecy was being fulfilled! A prophecy given over 500 years earlier about Messiah, fulfilled in every detail in the life of Jesus of Nazareth!

Perhaps Jesus mentioned the prophecy of the prophet Malachi. The prophecy was given more than 400 years before Jesus was born. Look at Malachi’s prophecy with me, recorded in Malachi 3:1-2: “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.” Who is that individual that the prophet is referring to? Exactly right. John the Baptist! The prophet Malachi continues, “Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.” That prophecy was fulfilled on two occasions, 400 years later in the

ministry of Jesus. The apostle John records the first time that Jesus, having begun His ministry as Messiah, comes to His Temple. That visit is recorded in John 2:13-19: “When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’”

Why didn’t the religious leaders try to stop Jesus? The prophet Malachi had prophesied more than 400 years earlier that “who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.” And the apostle John records in John 2:17, “His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ Then the Jews demanded of him, ‘What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’”

That was a clear prophecy by Jesus about His death and resurrection. But the religious leaders didn’t change their behavior. I’m sure that the religious leaders said to themselves, “We’re never going to let Jesus of Nazareth treat us like that again!” But three years later, Jesus came again to His Temple, and Matthew records in Matthew 21:12-16, “Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, ‘Hosanna

to the Son of David,' they were indignant. 'Do you hear what these children are saying?' they asked him, 'Yes,' replied Jesus, 'have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?"'

I'm sure that in His Bible study with the two disciples on the Emmaus Road that Jesus mentioned the prophecies of the prophet Isaiah. More than 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that Messiah would take a special interest in Galilee of the Gentiles. Look at Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 9:1-2: "Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." That's right before the great prophecy about Messiah in Isaiah 9:6-7! So Isaiah prophesied, 700 years before the ministry of Jesus that Messiah would take a special interest in Galilee of the Gentiles. That was totally contrary to the expectation of the Jews. The Galileans were social outcasts, a mixture of ethnic groups imported after the Assyrian invasion of the 8th century BC. But Luke records that the prophecy of Isaiah about Messiah was fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus. Turn to Luke 4:14-15: "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him."

But most of all, I'm certain that Jesus mentioned the later prophecies of the prophet Isaiah when talking to His two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Remember the words of Jesus recorded in Luke 24:26: "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" No prophet describes the sufferings of Messiah more vividly than the prophet Isaiah. I'm certain that Jesus reminded His two disciples on the road to Emmaus of the prophecy of the prophet

Isaiah, recorded in Isaiah 50:6-7. “I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.”

And then read with me from Isaiah 53. “Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I

will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Read Matthew 26-27 this afternoon. And Mark 14-15. And Luke 22-23. And John 18-19. Every single detail of this great prophecy of the prophet Isaiah was fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth.

The testimony of the prophets is clear, my brothers and sisters. Jesus is the Messiah! Hundreds of prophecies concerning Messiah were fulfilled in every detail in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

And what does that have to do with you today? That same Jesus, that same Messiah, that same Savior who walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, that Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with! He loves you. He cares about you, wherever you are on life's road. He will meet you in the midst of your sorrows, in the midst of your anxieties, in the midst of your cares, in the midst of your joys. He wants to save you. He wants you to be a part of His kingdom that shall never pass away. He wants you to know Him whom to know is life eternal. He wants you to experience an intimate encounter with Him. And when that happens, your heart will also burn within you! What a wonderful thought. Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you.

RADICAL EVIDENCE - PART 4

The testimony of the Psalmists

Dr. Derek Morris

Preaching passage:	Luke 24:27, 32
Subject:	Why did the hearts of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus burn within them when Jesus showed them everything in the writings of the Psalmists concerning Himself
Complement:	because all these things confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah.
Exegetical idea:	The hearts of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus burned within them when Jesus showed them everything in the writings of the Psalmists concerning Himself because all these things confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah.
Preaching idea:	Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you!
Purpose:	To encourage my hearers to examine the evidence in the books of the Psalms regarding Jesus as the Messiah, to accept Him as their personal Savior, and to tell others that Jesus, their Messiah, wants to walk with them too!

Introduction

My wife and I love to sing Scripture songs. We sing Scripture songs when we walk together in the mornings. We sing Scripture songs as part of our worship together. We sing Scripture songs in the car. It all started when our children were little. My wife was impressed to start composing Scripture songs to help our children memorize Scripture. That was twenty years ago. Now our children are grown, but through the years their lives have been blessed and our whole family has been profoundly blessed by singing more than 100 Scripture songs from God's Word. Now those Scripture songs are played in people's homes and on Christian radio stations around the world! I'm so thankful today for a wonderful Christian wife who has helped us to hide God's Word in our hearts!

Singing Scripture songs is not a new idea. Did you realize that there is a whole collection of Scripture songs in the Bible? It's called the book of Psalms. It really should be called the books of Psalms, because there are 5 books of Psalms altogether, all bundled into one! And did

you know that there was more than one psalmist? Who was the most well known psalmist? David! That's right. But there were many psalmist who made contributions to the 5 books of psalms: David's son Solomon, Asaph, the sons of Korah, Moses. That's right! Moses wrote one of the Scripture songs that is included in the Psalms. Each one of them was inspired by God to give a testimony in song.

When we think of those Scripture songs known as the Psalms, we probably think of songs of praise, songs of worship, songs of confession and songs of petition. Most people don't realize that there are over 90 prophecies about the Messiah in the Psalms. Today we are going to examine some of those prophecies in the Psalms as we continue our series on Radical Evidence.

If you have been with us for the rest of this Radical Evidence series, you'll remember that Jesus gave an amazing Bible study to two of His disciples as they walked together on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. That walk of 7-8 miles would have taken at least 2 hours, maybe as much as 4 hours. Perhaps they occasionally stopped to reason together, and then continued on their walk. Dr. Luke tells us, in Luke 24:27 that as Jesus walked with His two disciples on the road to Emmaus that "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."

In this series, we've considered the testimony of Moses and we have found that all of those prophecies point to Jesus as the Messiah. We've also considered the testimony of the prophets about Messiah, and we have found that all of those prophecies point to Jesus as the Messiah. You might ask, "Why are we now examining the testimony of the Psalmists?" Well, look with me at a comment that Jesus made later that evening. Luke 24:44-45 "He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written

about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”

Today, in our study, I want to focus on just one of the 150 psalms that contains startling prophecies about the Messiah, and every prophetic detail of this psalm is fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Every detail of this Scripture song about Messiah points to Jesus as the Messiah.

The psalm that we will examine together is a psalm of David—Psalm 22. Please take your Bible and open it to Psalm 22. As we read this psalm, stop me if you see any portion of this prophecy that was fulfilled in the life of Jesus. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” You say, “Stop right there!” Jesus cried those words from the cross! Does anyone have a cross reference in the margin of Psalm 22? Where are those words recorded again in the New Testament, 1000 years later? Mark 15:34

Let’s read on. Psalm 22:1b-8. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ‘He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’”

You say, “Stop there!” Didn’t the enemies of Jesus mock Him and hurl insults at Him while He was hanging on the cross? Let’s look at Matthew 27:39-43. “Those who passed by

hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.''' That mockery, those insults were prophesied 1000 years earlier!

Let's read on. Psalm 22:9-15. "Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. (Notice, it doesn't say "All of my bones are broken. But all of my bones are out of joint) My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death."

You say, "Wait! Stop there! I remember a cry of Jesus from the cross. It's recorded in John 19:28." What did Jesus cry out? "I thirst." And 1000 years earlier it had been prophesied by the Psalmist, "my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth."

Let's read on. Psalm 22:16. Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet." You say, "That's a prophecy about the crucifixion, right there! There were two ways that a condemned criminal could be fastened to a Roman cross. Some were simply tied to the cross, and left there to die. Others were tied and

nailed to the cross. How do we know that Jesus was nailed to the cross? How do you know that they pierced Jesus? Do you remember the words of Thomas, recorded in John 20:25. Thomas said, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” That prophecy of the Psalmist, recorded 1000 years earlier, was fulfilled! “They have pierced my hands and my feet.”

Let’s keep reading from Psalm 22:17-18. “I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”

You say, “Stop!” I’ve read about that being fulfilled when Jesus was being crucified on the cross. You’re right. Matthew, and Mark, and Luke, and John record the fulfillment of that prophecy of the Psalmist. Here is just one testimony, from Matthew. Matthew 27:35 “When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.” That prophecy was fulfilled with startling accuracy!

Psalm 22:19-22. “.....”

Did you notice that Psalm 22 makes an abrupt shift in verse 22. It’s a whole new theme, of praise and adoration. And what marks the shift from cries in the midst of suffering to words of praise and adoration? Verse 21 of Psalm 22. I don’t think that the NIV is the best translation here. It misses the significance of the abrupt shift in verse 22. The NIV reads this way in Psalm 22:21. “Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.” But the Hebrew can also be translated this way, as it is in the NKJV: “Save Me from the lion’s mouth and from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me!”

That’s why there is such an abrupt shift in Psalm 22:22. “You have answered Me!” Messiah has the assurance that His cries are heard, in the midst of His suffering! You have

answered Me. Messiah catches a glimpse of what was prophesied by the psalmist David in Psalm 16:9-11. “Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

There it is! A clear prophesy about the resurrection! And when the women came to the tomb early on the morning of the first day of the week, two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”

We could spend the remainder of our study time together considering many other prophecies in the psalms about Messiah, all of which are fulfilled in the life of Jesus. But I want to conclude this last study in our Radical Evidence series, by asking a very important question. Why did Dr. Luke include this story of Jesus walking with His disciples on the Emmaus Road in his gospel record? What was Luke’s purpose, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Well, we know that Luke had a special message to share with the world. It’s stated most clearly in Luke 19:10. “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Have you ever heard of the trilogy of “lost” parables? The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost sons? Only one Gospel writer includes that trilogy of “lost” parables. Can you guess which gospel writer that is? You’re right. Can you guess why? Luke 19:10... . “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

And then Luke records this story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. How were they doing before Jesus joined them on the road? They were....LOST. But I have good news for

you today. The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost! And so Jesus, the Risen Lord, joins His two disciples on the Emmaus Road, and He opens the Scriptures to them. He opens their eyes, and He opens their understanding.

And what is the result? Luke 24:32 “They asked each other, Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” Their hearts burned within them because they were absolutely convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, their Messiah.

There was a time and place on the road of my life when I was lost. Lost in my selfishness. Lost in my sinfulness. And I’m so thankful today that Jesus, my Messiah found me. I’m so thankful that Jesus, my Messiah, walks with me! Is there anyone else here today who was lost at some place on your life’s journey, and you are thankful today that Jesus, your Messiah, found you! Let me see your hand raised in thanks toward heaven. Praise God!

Someone here today, who has listened to this series of messages, has been thoroughly convinced that Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfillment of all of the prophecies of Moses, all the Prophets, and the Psalmists. To you, I would say today, “Jesus is not just THE Messiah! He is YOUR Messiah. And Jesus, your Messiah wants to walk with you! Isn’t that good news? No matter where you are on life’s journey. No matter how confused you are. Or how weak you feel. Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you!

After Cleopas and his friend had received this amazing Bible study on the road to Emmaus, their understanding was opened and their eyes were opened. They recognized Jesus, and their hearts were filled with joy. At that moment, Luke records in Luke 24:31 “their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.” But even though

Jesus disappeared from their sight, He was still in their hearts. And what did these two disciples do? Sit around and celebrate? No! They hurried back to Jerusalem, another 7-8miles, in the dark. Why? Because they just had to share the good news that Jesus, the Messiah, was risen from the dead!

Once we recognize that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior of the world, we ought not to just sit around and celebrate. There are others around us who need to know that Jesus is their Messiah, and that Jesus, their Messiah wants to walk with them too! Remember Cleopas and his friend. They hurried back to their friends, their colleagues, and they gave their testimony that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

So who do you know that needs to hear the good news about Jesus? You can give them your testimony. You can present the radical evidence about Jesus. And you can tell them the good new: “Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you!”