

Recognizing the Risen Christ

Luke 24:13-32

In life's difficult seasons we experience as a believer, Jesus is present and active, whether we see and feel Him, or not. The inability to sense God's presence is a common experience for most Christians.

Psalm 13:1

“How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for good? How long will you hide Your face from me?”

The two travelers on the road to Emmaus encountered Jesus but did not recognize Him at first. Their interaction with Him teaches us four important truths about how to navigate a season of disappointment and discouragement.

1. Choose to trust that Jesus is present with you and working on your behalf, even when you don't see him. (Lk. 24:13-16)

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they communed and reasoned together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. (MEV)

□ Name your disappointment honestly before God (Psalm-like honesty).

□ Ask daily: *“Lord, help me see where
You are already at work.”*

❑ Slow down your pace—Jesus often meets us in unhurried moments.

2. Trust Jesus to meet you where you are, even when you have frustrations, questions, and confusion. (vv. 17-24)

17 He said to them, “What kind of communication are you sharing with one another while you are walking and are sad?”

*18 One of them, named Cleopas, answered Him,
“Are You the only foreigner in Jerusalem who does
not know what has happened there in these days?”*

19 He said to them, “What things?”

They said to Him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet, powerful in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was to redeem Israel. Moreover, today is the third day since these things happened.

22 Even some women from among us, who arrived early at the tomb, surprised us. 23 When they did not find His body, they returned saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. 24 Then some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they did not see Him.”

□ Jesus asks questions He already knows the answer to.

□ He invites them to process their pain out loud.

□ God is not intimidated by our doubts or confusion.

□ Notice: they were talking *about* Jesus
but didn't recognize Him *with them*.

3. Rely on Jesus to reveal Himself through the word. (vv. 25-27)

*25 He said to them, “O fools! And slow of heart to believe what the prophets have spoken! 26 *Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter His glory?” 27 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

□ Jesus calls them “slow of heart to believe.”

- He walks them through the Scripture - showing how everything points to Him.

□ The Word of God realigns our expectations and opens our eyes.

□ Before their eyes were opened, their *understanding* was being shaped.

4. Invite Him in! (vv. 28-32)

28 They drew near the village where they were traveling, and He seemed to be going farther. 29 But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us. For it is nearly evening and the day is far spent." So He went in to stay with them. 30 As He sat at supper with them, He took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished out of their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the way and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

- Jesus “acted as if” He would go farther
- He waits for invitation.

□ “Stay with us”—they invite Him in.

□ He is revealed in the breaking of bread (fellowship/intimacy).

□ Recognition often comes in
relationship, not just information.

One of the richest, most fulfilling experiences we will have as a Christian is when we see Jesus reveal himself in places and situations where we never expected Him to.

*What if Jesus has been walking with you
this whole time... and you just haven't
recognized Him?*