



Our relationship with Jesus is a journey. It is a journey. In our journey, sometimes we become too familiar with people, things and places that we don't notice them anymore. They can be there but we just pass by it.

Luke 24:13-21, <sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> 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." (NIV).

Jesus here has just risen from the dead. And He'll be on earth for around 40 days and He'll be ascending to heaven. He resurrected from the dead just as He said He would. He has the key to death and hell (Rev. 1:18). He basically gave the devil a black-eye because the Temple that they thought they destroyed, was rebuilt after 3 days just as He said He would. But the disciples didn't believe the promise of Jesus that He'll come back to life after His death. That's why some women disciples of Jesus were looking for Jesus in the tomb. And the angels said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead (Luke 24:5 NIV):"

God is alive so He's not meant to be an add-on or accessory to our life. He is the operating system to those who choose to believe Him and to those who are willing to surrender their life to Him.

#### GOD OF DETOUR

After resurrection, Jesus only has 40 days before He'll be taken to heaven. He has to show Himself to His disciples for many reasons. One is to prove that He has resurrected as He promised. What is the first thing that He did after resurrection? And He met with two people who are not even His well-known disciples. Do you know the message I got from this short verse? God will meet with you among the crowds of billion even if you think you're insignificant. Your life's status does not matter to God. Your location does not matter to God. But your life matters to God.

God cares for people who are overlooked by others. God has not forgotten about you. Jesus wants to walk with you in your life's journey. Jesus met the two travelers in Emmaus. If what the tour guides are saying true, if Emmaus is away from Jerusalem, then why didn't just Jesus in His power just lead them to Jerusalem? Why did He meet them in Emmaus? maybe we're looking for God in the DESTINATION but He is the God of the DETOUR.

#### GOD OF DETAILS

God doesn't only want to meet you in your destiny but He wants to meet you and walk with you every step of the way. God is with us when we're wrong. He's with us when we're moving forward. He's with us when we're stuck. He's with us when we're rejoicing. He's with us when we're strong. He's with us when we're weak. He walks with us and talks to us every step of the way. God is always with us but sometimes our sin, struggles, desires keep us from recognizing Him. Is it possible that God has already helped you but you didn't recognize it? Is it possible that God allowed you to go through pain because you've been praying that you want to grow in faith but you can't recognize it? Tell your neighbor, "Open your eyes. Shift the focus."

#### GOD OF DEAD END

Luke 24:17 - "He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast (NIV)." everything that Jesus is doing after His resurrection is unexpected to us. He went away from Jerusalem where He's going to be taken to heaven. He went to an unknown place Emmaus to meet unknown and sad people like Cleopas and Mrs. Cleopas. Who would want to go on a journey with people who are sad? They're so sad because it didn't go well as they expected it to be.

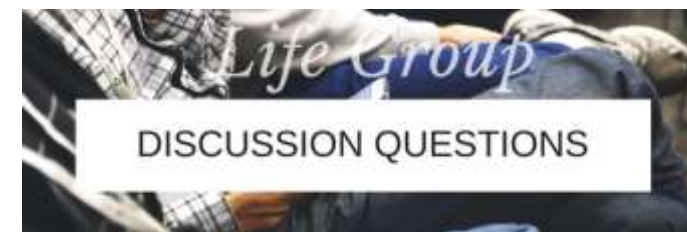
Luke 24:18-19a - <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' <sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked (NIV)." Sometimes we think we know more than God does. We think we know better in handling our business. We think we know better in raising our children. We think we know better in making our relationship work. We call it KNOWLEDGE but God calls it PRIDE. Proverbs 3:34 - "He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed (NIV)."

Cleopas thought that Jesus was just a visitor in Jerusalem. He never knew He is the creator and owner of Jerusalem. Sometimes we treat God as just a visitor. We think that God is just a visitor in our family. So we want to show Him our blueprint in raising our children. Sometimes we even think God is just a visitor in this church. This is why we want to run the church our own way. We want to control our tithes the way we want to. We want a perfect system and we tell God what to do.

If you trust the promise of God, you have to trust the path of God even if it is winding, even if it is challenging, even if it is a dead end because God will make a way when there's seem to be no way. Your path right now may not be spectacular in your eyes. He may not prove it to you in signs and wonders as you have hoped for. This is why He was, He is, and He is to come.

Luke 24:22 - "In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning (NIV)." These women were looking in the wrong place just like some of us. We're looking for God in RELIGION, but He can be found in RELATIONSHIP.

We've been desiring for PRESENT from God, but God wants us to long for His PRESENCE. Cleopas was sharing what the women shared and how the angels told the women that Jesus has risen from the dead. Remember Cleopas is talking to Jesus about Jesus. They didn't recognize that God is beside them. Luke 24:23-24 - <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." (NIV)



1. How was journey with the Lord?
2. What do you see are the great things that God is doing in your life even in your troubled times?
3. What are the things God has done in your life that you appreciate?