

INSPIRE MINISTRIES

Empowering Christian Leaders for Lasting Impact



Jan Wildens: Christ on the Road to Emmaus, 1640s

HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION

The Walk to Emmaus - Acts 24:13-35

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[1] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ 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?" ¹⁹ "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. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ 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. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning

²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 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?" ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

During the month of April, I was honored to preach at Journey Church in Ventura as they journeyed through a series on the life of Jesus Christ. My assignment was simple, yet profound: to remind the church that Jesus Christ did not only die—He is alive. Too often we linger at the cross without fully stepping into the power of the resurrection. But the Gospel is not only that He suffered; it is that He rose. In Luke 24, we find two disciples on the road to Emmaus, heavy with grief, walking away from Jerusalem in disappointment. They had witnessed the cost, but they had not yet grasped the promise.

And yet, in their sorrow, Jesus came near. He walked with them. He listened to them. He taught them. Though they did not recognize Him at first, He was present all along, opening the Scriptures and revealing truth. And when their eyes were finally opened, He vanished from their sight—but not from their lives. They said to one another, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" That is what happens when the living Christ meets us on the road: despair gives way to revelation, and heaviness gives way to hope.

That same living Christ is still walking with His people today. For Journey Church, in a season of waiting for their next pastor, the reminder was clear: you are not without a Shepherd. For those carrying the weight of grief—including colleagues mourning the loss of parents and even a child—the message is just as powerful: God has not left you. Jesus walks with you now, and because He lives, there is a promise that stretches beyond this life into eternity. No matter where the road leads, we do not walk alone. He is alive—and in Him, there is always hope.

Upcoming Preaching & Teaching Invitations

God continues to open doors for the Gospel to be preached and for the message of hope, courage, and discipleship to be shared across Southern California. Please keep these upcoming dates in prayer:

St. John Baptist Church – Los Angeles

June-July - TBD

Faithful of Fearful: Responding to the Politics of Fear - Bible study discussion

Ventura Missionary Church

Sunday, September 13th

A special Youth Day message calling the next generation to bold faith, spiritual resilience, and Christ-centered identity.



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