

## Equipped to walk with Jesus

One of the things I love about living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is having access to all kinds of useful technology. Take the internet, for example. The ministry of Equipped for Living would be severely stunted if we didn't have an online presence. Then, there are CDs and MP3s - where would we be without them? Listening to music or a Christian talk is a regular feature of my commute to work. But there's a Bible talk that's not available online, on CD or on MP3... I'm talking about the details of Jesus' response to two of his followers on the road to Emmaus on the day of his resurrection. As he walked beside them in their misery and disappointment, we read this: *"Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets."*<sup>1</sup> I don't know about you, but I would have LOVED to have heard that message! No wonder the guys said to each other when they reached Emmaus, *"When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?"*<sup>2</sup>

If you check out this passage in different Bible versions, you'll see that it's Jesus who walked with his two followers. It doesn't say they walked with him. What sorts of things might make it difficult for us to walk with Jesus? Here are some suggestions.

**When we don't know who he is:** *"...but they did not know who he was".*<sup>3</sup> The two guys walking to Emmaus were followers of Jesus but they didn't recognise him until they got to the end of their journey. Is that not the way it is with us sometimes? As followers of Jesus, we often fail to appreciate that, through all the difficulties of life, Jesus is walking with us and knows all we're going through. Or maybe the problem is a different one for you. Perhaps you don't know who he is because you've never placed your faith in him for salvation and turned from the sins that nailed him to the cross at Calvary. How awesome would it be if, this Easter, you began to appreciate the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection for you personally!

**When our hopes are dashed:** *"We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free!"*<sup>4</sup> Those guys were absolutely devastated. They had pinned their hopes on Jesus as the one who would rescue their beloved nation from the oppression of the Romans. They even believed that God was on his side.<sup>5</sup> Yet, look what happened. He was handed over for execution - the horrible death of crucifixion, no less. These two followers of Jesus knew what it was like to have their world fall apart. Perhaps you know what dashed hopes look like, too. Something you never thought would happen did happen. You feel you've reached the end of the road. What now? Well, it wasn't until these guys literally reached the end of the road that their hope was magnified beyond anything they could imagine.<sup>6</sup> Don't let life's bitter disappointments keep you from walking with Jesus.

**When we're slow to believe:** *"...Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said?"*<sup>7</sup> What are your beliefs about Jesus? Are you happy to accept the things written about him in the New Testament? What about the way he is referred to in the Old Testament? When Jesus explained Old Testament scriptures to two guys on a seven mile journey to Emmaus, He was testifying to the truth of what the biblical writers had said. Are you ready to quit being slow to believe? Why not believe the truth of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible? Perhaps you'll find that, by doing so, it's not too difficult to walk with him after all.

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 24:27 (New Century Version)

<sup>2</sup> Luke 24:32 (NCV)

<sup>3</sup> Luke 24:16 (NCV)

<sup>4</sup> Luke 24:21a (NCV)

<sup>5</sup> Luke 24:19

<sup>6</sup> Luke 24:31-33

<sup>7</sup> Luke 24:25 (NCV)