

From Walking Away to Running Back

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Ryan Conlon / April 5, 2026

Luke 24:13-21 “That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, ‘What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?’ And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, ‘Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?’ ¹⁹ And He said to them, ‘What things?’ And they said to Him, ‘Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.’”

I. Missing Jesus leaves us walking away.

The two disciples miss Jesus by not recognizing Him and misunderstanding Him. When you feel like walking away because hope feels lost, know that God is far closer than you realize.

Luke 24:25-27 “And He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?’ ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

II. Seeing Jesus fulfill the Scriptures changes our hearts.

When they open the Scriptures they begin to see that what looked like failure on Friday was actually fulfillment all along.

Like putting on corrective lenses, Jesus brings the whole Old Testament into focus by showing that it always pointed to His suffering before glory. As Scripture becomes clear, their hearts burn within them.

Luke 24:28-33 “So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if He were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged Him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.’ So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?’ ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together.”

III. Seeing Jesus alive changes everything.

A. It changes the outcome (He wins!).

Romans 6:9 “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.”

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.”

Jesus defeated sin by dying for it – and defeated death by rising from it.

B. It changes our hearts.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.”

C. It changes our direction.

Acts 9:31 “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”