
Luke's Gospel

Emmaus

The heart of it all

In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.



I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”.

Emmaus

- ★ Read the story
- ★ Pause for reflection
- ★ Share observations / questions





Emmaus

- ★ **Empty Tomb Proclamations**
- ★ *Shared across the Gospels*
- ★ **Resurrection Appears Stories**
- ★ *Unique to each Gospel*
- ★ This does raise questions

Narrative

- ★ It is a narrative, that is, a story with a plot
- ★ Within the biblical tradition, it is a theophany
- ★ A story unique to Luke (the story of Philip and the Eunuch in Acts mirrors it).
- ★ Both belong to a type of folktale in which the welcome to the unrecognised stranger turns out to be the decisive event of your life.
- ★ In the Jewish tradition, there are stories of Elijah, interestingly, exactly in this role.
- ★ The Lucan version exhibits the typical features of resurrection appearance stories: doubt, lack of recognition, revelation and mission.

Narrative

Plot structure

Exposition

Inciting moment

Complication

Climax

Dénouement



Narrative

- ★ Watch when the story “turns”
- ★ **Knowledge:** “At this point their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” (Luke 24:31)
- ★ **Character:** “They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us while he was speaking with us on the road, while he was explaining the scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32)
- ★ **Action:** “So they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:33)

Narrative

A 13 (in the same / Jerusalem / going)

B 14 (they were talking to each other)

C 15ab (Jesus himself drew near)

D 16 (something prevented them from recognizing him)

E 17-19a (he makes a request which stops them)

F 19b-24 (ministry, death and tomb, no sight)

G 25 slowness of heart / slow to believe

F' 26-27 (ministry, death and tomb, in the light of SS)

E' 28-30 (they make a request which stops him)

D' 31a (their eyes were opened, they recognized him)

C' 31b (He disappears from them)

B' 32 (they speak to each other)

A' 33a (in the same / Jerusalem / returning) + Coda: 33-35

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Emmaus

- ★ How may later generations “meet” the risen Lord?
- ★ Question for us today as well
- ★ The elusive and sovereign presence of the Lord

Emmaus: *my* journey

- ★ My personal journey - especially my hopes
- ★ My knowledge of the “story” of Jesus
- ★ An openness to letting him encounter you
- ★ I choose to have him in my life

Emmaus: *our* journey

- ★ The Word of God: (a) to name our experience
- ★ The Word of God (b) to understand Jesus
- ★ The Breaking of the Bread: recognising him
- ★ Community: sharing experiences and stories
- ★ Mission: this is not to be kept to ourselves

Emmaus

On a personal level, the most important moment is v.29

**“But they urged him,
“Stay with us, because it is
getting toward evening
and the day is almost
done.”” (Luke 24:29)**

Not a “recipe”, but a series of significant personal choice and discernments, leading to a moment of encounter

Prayer

O God of mystery,
out of death you delivered Christ Jesus,
and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples.
Stir up our faith,
that our hearts may burn within us
at the sound of his word,
and our eyes be opened to recognize him
in the breaking of the bread.
Grant this through Jesus Christ,
the first-born from the dead,
who lives with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.

Emmaus - the corner of the eye



Conversation

Conversation

