

## THE EMMAUS ROAD

What follows may appear as old news to some of you who have followed this column for the past several years, but to many of you, what I say next will contain some new thoughts.

The Sunday after Easter is often a downer because things are pretty much back to normal after the Easter week celebrations. There is a good chance you will look out at your congregation and see your folks all in their same places. Next big event: MOTHER'S DAY, May 10.



For many years, following Easter Sunday, I delivered a message from Luke, Chapter 24, entitled **The Walk to Emmaus**. I tried to put a new twist on it each year, but basically it was the same sermon about two people getting out of Jerusalem, and away from the painful experience of bearing witness to the crucifixion. They were in deep conversation when, in a dramatic moment, a stranger began to walk with them. They did not recognize that One as the resurrected Lord. A lot of folks have the same reaction after Easter.

In my message, I made the point that "Emmaus" is a place where people go when they want to get away from it all, when hopes have been dashed and dreams destroyed. So often, we walk with our heads down, so engrossed in our own pain that we fail to recognize the One who is able to help us: **"their faces downcast"** (v.17).

I also made the point that, even though they failed to identify this One as the Christ, they still knew a lot about Him. Even that was not enough to bring them peace: **"but we had hoped that he was the one"** (v.21). So many people have head knowledge rather than heart knowledge.

They knew the message well, but it took the stranger to clarify the real purpose of Christ's coming, and the ramifications of His death and resurrection: **"Did not Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"** (v.26).

The moment of recognition came as they quieted their hearts and sat at a table with Jesus: **"Their eyes were opened and they recognized him"** (v.31). We all have our own experiences of receiving and believing that Jesus is the Christ, and when we do, the results are dramatic: **"It is true! The Lord has risen"** (v.34).

Space will not allow me the luxury of filling in the gaps, but needless to say, I love that wonderful story. I may get a chance to preach it on Friday to the Church of God in St. Louis. I pray the flow of Easter will stay with you for weeks to come.

Be blessed and be a blessing. —HBL