



Church of God Sunday School

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS & DOUBTING THOMAS

Luke 24:13-48; John 20:19-31

It was the first day of the week. Two of Jesus' disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus (*uh-MAY-uhs*). This was a distance of seven to eight miles. We only know the name of one of the disciples; it was Cleopas (*KLEE-uh-puhs*). As they walked together, the two men talked about all that had recently happened—how Jesus had been betrayed by Judas, condemned by the priests, and crucified by Roman soldiers. Then Jesus had died and was buried.

These two disciples were so sad! Things had not turned out the way they expected. Perhaps they wondered if Jesus really was the Messiah after all. While these two men traveled and talked, Jesus caught up with them and began to walk with them. But they did not recognize Jesus. Jesus asked the disciples what they were talking about that had made them so sad.

Cleopas asked, "Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?" When Jesus asked, "What things?" the two disciples began to talk about Jesus of Nazareth, who was "a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people." (Notice they called Jesus "a prophet" and not the Messiah.)

The disciples told how they had believed that this Jesus would have "redeemed Israel" (delivered Israel from the Romans). Instead He was sentenced to death and crucified. It had been three days since all that had taken place. Now, on this third day, they had heard a report from certain women that had shocked them.

These women had come back from Jesus' tomb, saying that His body was gone and that they had seen angels who said Jesus was alive! When some of the disciples went to the tomb, they found it empty (as the women had said), but they did not see Jesus.

Then Jesus reminded them that all of this had been prophesied of by the prophets many years ago. Jesus talked

to them about what Moses and the prophets had said concerning the suffering of the Messiah. (Yet, they still did not realize it was Jesus talking to them.)

When Jesus and the two disciples came to the village, it was evening. Jesus would have traveled further, but they urged Him to stay with them. Perhaps they wanted to hear more from Jesus. They sat down to eat, and Jesus blessed the bread and gave it to them. Then "their eyes were opened, and they knew him." Not only did they realize that He was Jesus, but now they knew that He truly was the Messiah!

Jesus "vanished out of their sight," but they continued to talk about Him. They said, "Did not our heart burn within us [their hearts were greatly moved], while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" Within the hour, they left and returned to Jerusalem. When they found the disciples "gathered together," they told them, "The Lord is risen indeed!"

While they were telling of what had happened on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appeared in the midst of them and said, "Peace be unto you." They were terribly afraid! The "doors were shut" because the disciples were afraid of the Jews. How did Jesus get in? They thought He was a "spirit."

Jesus reassured them that He was not a spirit. He showed them His hands and His feet. Then He asked them, "Have ye here any meat?" After He had eaten, He talked with His disciples, "that they might understand the scriptures."

Thomas (one of the twelve disciples) was not there on the night Jesus appeared. He heard about it from those who were there. They told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord," but he could not believe it was true. Thomas said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were gathered together once again, and this time Thomas was with them. As be-



fore, although the doors were "shut" (and probably locked as well), Jesus came and "stood in the midst" of them. Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side." (Jesus knew of Thomas' doubts, and He knew exactly what Thomas had said.)

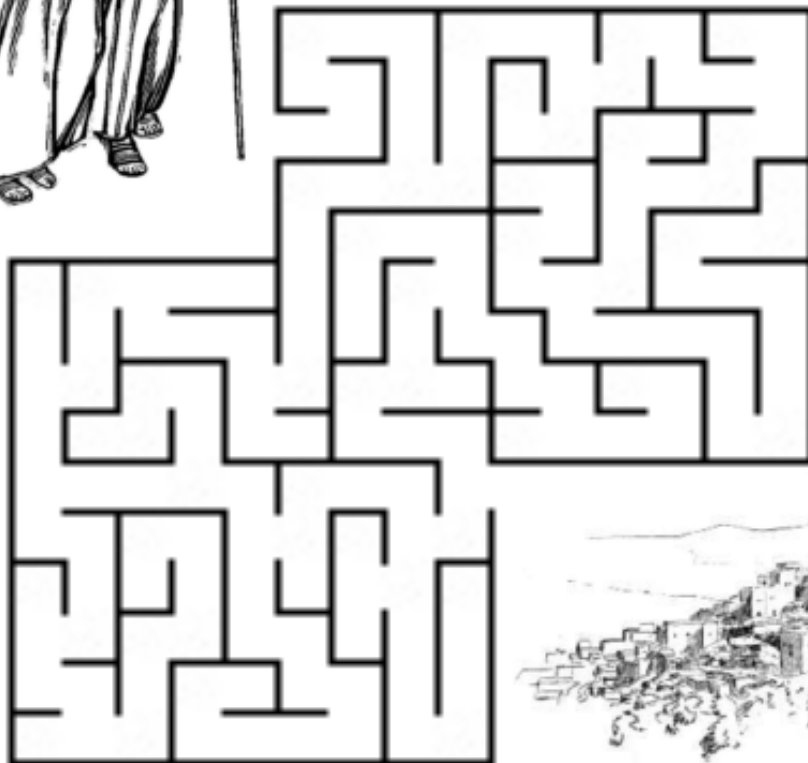
Jesus then told Thomas, in so many words, "Stop doubting and believe!" Thomas (now believing Jesus was truly the Son of God) said, "My Lord and my

God." Jesus told Thomas, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

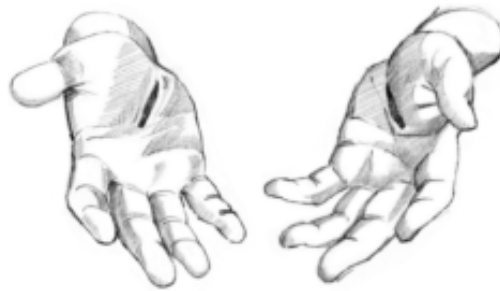
*" . . . Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."*  
— John 20:29  
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Help Jesus and the Disciples Find Emmaus



City of Emmaus

What Did Thomas Need to See Before He Could Believe?



**"Except I shall see in his
_____ the print of
the nails . . . and thrust my
hand into his _____,
I will
not
believe."**

