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Listening to Understand

Luke 24:13-53

Nearly six hundred years have passed since the prophet Ezekiel in our last study. During that time, the Babylonian culture declined after nearly a thousand years of influence. Rome, with its myth-like beginning of twins Romulus and Remus in the 700s BC, had become the world's governmental giant by Luke's era. Its empire totally surrounded the Mediterranean Sea, eventually claiming most of the known world and extending northward into much of what is now Europe.

Within this historical context we witness the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION. When you are talking with someone, what helps you feel that you are being heard?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. If you had been able to accompany Jesus on the Emmaus Road, what do you think you would need to hear?

Today you get to take a seven-mile walk to Emmaus and talk with the risen Christ. *Read Luke 24:13-53.*

1. What are the circumstances behind this story that make this a good opportunity to listen to Jesus and understand him?

2. Why might you feel sympathetic toward these two disciples?

3. Pretend for a moment that you are a first-century traveler listening to the conversation of verses 13-29. What would interest you?

4. Focus on verses 30-35: “Then their eyes were opened” (v. 31). What do you think the two disciples saw in that moment of spiritual insight?

5. Consider the two who had this experience with Jesus and then tried to share it with the others (v. 35). What would you find difficult to talk about?

What would you try to emphasize?

6. In verses 36-49 Jesus interrupts the disciples’ gathering. What do you find important about the details of this visit?

7. What do you think happened when “he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures” (v. 45)?

8. What do you see when you picture the scenes in verses 36-53?

9. What would you have gained (and lost) by being there?

10. If you could have a conversation with one of the disciples who experienced all this, what would you ask?

Thank God for one of the events in this text.

Now or Later

Christ no longer walks bodily with us, but his Spirit remains within his people. Take time in the next week for a God walk. Consciously use that time to think and pray, and to reflect on your relationship with the ever-living Christ.

