

FROM HOPELESSNESS TO CELEBRATION

Almost immediately after our Lord's Resurrection, stories of Him appearing to some of His followers began to surface. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, who, at first, thought she was speaking to a gardener rather than Christ Himself. He appeared to His Apostles on the evening of His Resurrection in the same Upper Room where they had shared the Last Supper. Without a doubt, however, the most dramatic post Resurrection encounter occurred along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Emmaus was a small town approximately 7 miles from Jerusalem. St. Luke's Gospel details a late afternoon journey between the two cities by two disciples: Cleopas and Luke. As they were walking, engrossed in conversation about recent events in the Holy city. Cleopas and Luke were suddenly joined by a "stranger" whom they did not recognize as their Saviour! When questioned by Him concerning their apparent sadness, the disciples told their new companion about Christ's death and rumored Resurrection. They spoke about their pain, grief and mourning.

Upon hearing this, our Lord goes into a comprehensive explanation of all of the prophecies concerning Himself. Enlightened and encouraged by His words, the disciples invite Jesus to remain with them for the evening after reaching Emmaus. As He breaks bread with them at supper and blesses it, the disciples realize that this "stranger" is their beloved Master. After Christ vanishes before their eyes, Cleopas and Luke quickly return to Jerusalem to share their astonishing experience with the Apostles.