

Overcome

Discouragement

Craig Smith • March 11, 2018

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them...He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked Him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (Luke 24:13-16, 17-18)

Spiritual discouragement sets in when...

- **We don't recognize His presence** – "...Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing Him." (Luke 24:15b-16)
- **Our expectations don't match His purposes** – "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him; but we had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:19b-21a)

🔍 **How do you respond when God doesn't work your way?** – "When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask Him, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" (Matt. 11:2-3)

- **We're slow to believe His promises** – "He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?'" (Luke 24:25-26)

Spiritual encouragement sets in when...

- **We work our way through Scripture** – "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself." (Luke 24:27)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Rom. 15:4)

- **We walk each day with Jesus** – "When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, and He disappeared from their sight." (Luke 24:30-31)

The Son of God through the Word of God will ignite a heart for God...

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)