

Three days post resurrection, the two headed down the seven-mile road to the village called Emmaus. As they travelled, what was at the forefront of their conversation was all the things that had transpired just three days earlier in Jerusalem. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a stranger draws near and opts to accompany them on their journey. He intuitively engages them, enquiring after what they were discussing. Their response is one of surprise. Are you telling us you are the only one that does not know the things that has happened? (Luke 24:18)

"What things?" their new companion asks (Luke 24:19), his response being an immediate invitation to tell him of the man called Jesus of Nazareth.

"O fools! Slow of heart to believe what the prophets have spoken!" (verse 25), the unidentified stranger cries out.

His rebuke still fresh in their minds, their continued journey brought them to the edge of the village, where it appeared that the stranger was moving on. Instinctively, the two invited him to stay overnight with them. As they sat down to supper, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to them and their eyes were opened, recognising him for the first time. When they returned to Jerusalem, they reported what had happened on the way (Luke 24:28-31).

Josh McDowell, in his book "The unshakable Truth" suggests that "To explain a biblical worldview outside of relationship is to distort and invite error into Christianity." Jesus knew this, namely, that truth authentically exists within the parameters of relationship, as seen in his rebuke of the Pharisees in John 5:39. In and of itself, truth cannot comfort or transform us, but only the personhood of Truth and the Holy Spirit. Jesus's declaration in John 14:6 – "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" – re-emphasises His identity as the personhood of Truth. It is here that we find that, through the toughest of times, we are not merely holding onto precepts and promises, but onto the very One who establishes and holds every precept and promise. If we seek and desire the comfort and hope of truth, we need to seek and desire the personhood of Truth (2 Corinthians 3:6).

Could this be the reason why Jesus post resurrection found it so important to undertake the 11km walk to Emmaus with two strangers, because He knew that outside of relationship biblical worldview could not be understood, and was open to error, if left to the reasoning of two? Two whom we note, in verse 35, were used by Jesus to share this biblical worldview with the rest of the 11 disciples and others.

Sandwiched between the chapter on the resurrection of Jesus and the ascension of Jesus, we find the journey to Emmaus. A most profound journey to biblical truth through relationship. The more clearly we see our relational dependence on Him, the clearer our focus, fruitfulness and journey towards Truth will be. The way of the church, the truth of the church and the life of the church is relationally dependent on Him, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Blessings to you as we grow increasingly, relationally dependent on him for Truth, in every arena of life.