

The image features a dark, stylized city skyline at night. A prominent, glowing cross is centered in the sky, with a vertical line extending from its base down to a small, dark, pointed structure on the ground. The text "CHRIST IN STRANGE PLACES" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

CHRIST IN STRANGE PLACES

On the Road to Emmaus

12.31.2023

Luke

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Luke 24:13-35

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; but they were kept from recognizing him. 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 the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "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. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our

women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

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. 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?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

How is it that we might see Jesus, but we do not recognize Him?

Disappointment, Dialogue, Dinner, and a Declaration.

How is it that we might see Jesus, but we do not recognize Him?

Luke 24:13-17

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; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.

Sometimes our overwhelming grief and disappointment can make God unrecognizable to us.

Luke 24:14-16

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; but they were kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:17-18

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 the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

Luke 24:17

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.

To Adam and Eve in Genesis 3: Where are you? What have you done?

To Hagar in Genesis 16: Where have you come from? Where are you going?

To Jacob in Genesis 35: What is your name?

To Moses in Exodus 4: What's in your hand?

To Job in Job 38: Who is this? And where were you when?

To Elijah in 1 Kings 19: What are you doing here?

To Isaiah in Isaiah 6: Whom shall I send?

To Jonah in Jonah 4: Do you have a right to be angry?

Luke 8: Did you not know who touched me?

John 10: Where's your husband?

Mark 10: What do you want me to do for you?

Matthew 16: Who do you say that I am?

Luke 10: What's written in the law?

Luke 24:17

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast.

“Jesus walks with us on the road unrecognized. He joins us in our sadness and despair. Having been in the tomb for three days he understands what it means to be stuck there. He listens to our story of confusion, disorientation, deep grief and loss of direction, human failure and inner darkness. Yes, he is with us in our lostness. But Jesus doesn't just stop with one question. He's not satisfied with the one sentence answer. He wants them to get to the heart of the matter.”

- Henri Nouwen

Luke 24:18

One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

Luke 24:19

“What things?” he asked.

Luke 24:19-24

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “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. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

How are they seeing Jesus, but not recognizing Him?

Luke 24:25-27

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his

glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

God wants to confront the ways we make God into our own image, instead of embracing the ways that we are made in His.

He also wants to confront and comfort us to not be disappointed when God does not act the way we expect God to act because we made Him in our own image.

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:28-29

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

How are we seeing Jesus, but don't yet recognize Him?

Luke 24:30-31

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.

Take, Bless, Break, Give.

What was lost in the garden in Genesis is being restored with Jesus at the table in Luke.

He wants to be seen and He wants to be recognized.

Luke 24:31-35

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 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?” They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

How do we continue to see Jesus and recognize Him?