

BIBLE READING DAY 49, SATURDAY: APRIL 16

The Emmaus Road Appearance

Luke 24:13–35

On the same day, two disciples were on their way to the village of Emmaus, about sixty furlongs from Jerusalem, and were talking together about all the things that had happened. And while they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and began walking along with them, but they were prevented from recognizing him.

“What is this discussion you are having as you walk along?” said Jesus.

They halted, looking very sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, said, “You must be the only stranger in Jerusalem who has not known the things that have happened there in these days.”

“What things?” asked Jesus.

“The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth,” they said, “a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he was the one who is to redeem Israel. And besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Furthermore, some women of our company caused us much astonishment: they were at the tomb early this morning and did not find his body and came back saying that they had seen a vision of angels who said that he is alive. Then some of them who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women said, but they did not see him.”

“O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!” said Jesus. “Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things before entering into his glory?”

Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them the things concerning himself in all the scriptures. And they drew near to the village to which they were going, and Jesus appeared to be going on. But they constrained him, saying, “Abide with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is far spent.”

He went in to abide with them. And as he sat at table with them, he took the bread and blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

Then they exclaimed one to another, “Did not our hearts burn within us as he spoke to us along the way and opened up the scriptures to us?”

And they got up from the table at once and hurried back to Jerusalem and found the eleven gathered together, and others with them, who exclaimed, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”

The two told what had happened on the road, and how they recognized Jesus when he broke the bread.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Luke 24:36–49; John 20:21–23

And as they were telling these things, Jesus himself stood in their midst and said, “Peace be to you.”

But they were startled and frightened, and thought they were seeing a spirit.

“Why are you troubled,” asked Jesus, “and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Handle me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still could not believe for joy, overcome by the wonder of it all, Jesus said, “Have you anything here to eat?”

And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. Then he said to them, “These are the things I told you while I was still with you, that all the things written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I will send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city until you are clothed with power from above.”

Then Jesus said to them again, “Peace be to you. As the Father sent me, so do I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they are retained.”

Thomas Sees Jesus and Believes

John 20:24–31

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But Thomas said, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails and put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

And after eight days, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood in the midst and said, “Peace be to you.”

Then he said to Thomas, “Place your finger here; behold my hands. Take your hand and put it in my side. Do not be faithless but believe.”

“My Lord, and my God!” cried Thomas.

“Because you have seen me, you have believed,” said Jesus. “Blessed are those who have not seen me, and yet have believed.”

And Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life through his name.

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry														
EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	THIRD PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING

DEVOTIONAL DAY 49 (SATURDAY, APRIL 16)

From Elation to Deflation—and Back Again

Based on Matthew 5:1–48

It's a gorgeous day. The sun is shining. It's 80 degrees outside. There is very little wind. It's summertime and the grass is green. There just could not be any better time to be outside enjoying life on the golf course.

I stepped up to the first tee box, a 390-yard, par 4 hole, and hit a beautiful drive – “long and straight,” as they say. The second shot lands on the green and the putt finds the hole. Always good to start the round with a birdie. On to the next hole, a 333-yard, par 4 hole. Again, a very decent drive, followed by a not so wonderful second shot. It takes three shots to reach the green. Unfortunately, the hole eludes the first putt. The second putt falls; it is a bogey. Now my score is “even par.” I continue through the first nine holes with five pars, two bogeys, and two birdies. I find myself “even par” on the front nine, something that does not happen often. I am pretty satisfied with my game so far. But there are still nine more holes to play.

I par hole number 10, continue through the round with two birdies and two bogeys on the back nine. That brings me to the eighteenth hole again sitting at even par. Number 18 is a 280-yard, par 4 hole. I get a decent drive, put the second shot onto the green but a long way from the pin. I manage to get the putt close to the hole but not in it. Fortunately, the second putt is short enough that it finds the hole and falls. I just parred the course for the first time in my golfing life. I also happened to do what many amateur golfers look forward to doing at some point, I “shot my age.” I experienced ELATION on that day and enjoyed being able to share my story with friends and family.

As is often the case in the game of golf--and in life--I have not been able to duplicate that round. A bit of DEFLATION always results at each bogey, not to mention the double and triple bogeys along the way.

But success on the golf course, as good as it is, is temporal. What will it really matter in eternity? Even for the professional golfer who earns a living playing the game, it is still a game that is enjoyed in this life and then is no more.

As I think about the two men Jesus met and conversed with on their way to Emmaus. I think about the ELATION they had hoped to experience in Jerusalem when “*Jesus of Nazareth... a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people,*” had been killed. They had described Him as “*the one who was going to redeem Israel.*” (Luke 24:19-21)

They had experienced DEFLATION when He was put to death. They described it this way: “*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.*” (Luke 24:21-23)

However, as Jesus opens their eyes to who He is, they were again ELATED to know that He was alive! Jesus immediately left them and appeared to His disciples, who had experienced the same DEFLATION as the two men. They now could and did experience the ELATION of Him being alive and present with them.

So, as we think about the experiences of this world, whether good (ELATION) or bad (DEFLATION), let us remember what is temporal and what is eternal. The hope we have in the risen Christ is eternal and should be enough to negate any DEFLATION we experience in this temporal life on earth.

Dear Lord, help us all to experience and even thrive in the ups and downs of life, of our disappointments and even our successes. Let us always look at our elations and deflations from Your Heavenly vantage point. Amen. Prayer

--Andy Greer

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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