

I. Introduction:

- A. The road to Emmaus story, in a number of ways, sheds light on the whole of our Christian journey as disciples. Just as Cleopas and his companion were completely unaware at first that the “Stranger” with them was Jesus, we are often just as unaware of how near Jesus is and what He is doing in our life. We tend to think that we would know or sense every time Jesus is near, but that simply is not the case from a biblical standpoint. The truth is that Jesus often comes to us in subtle and humble ways. (There are a number of reasons for this, in my opinion, but that’s for another time.) With this in mind, I’d like to offer a few insights from this passage of Scripture that I hope will help us in our walk with Christ.

II. Scripture passage in focus:

Luke 24:13-32 | ¹³ Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?” ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And He said to them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ **But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.** Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.” ²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in **all that the prophets have spoken!** ²⁶ **Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?**” ²⁷ And **beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.** ²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

III. Three main takeaways for further thought and prayer:

1. **“We were hoping”** (v. 21): Like many today, Cleopas had a hope that was based on an insufficient understanding of how the Christ would redeem Israel. Jesus is going to redeem Israel (Romans 11:26), but not in the way Cleopas thought He would (immediately in fullness). Many Christians today carry a feeling of sadness, disillusionment and even betrayed because they put all their hope in something that Jesus did not do. This “Cleopas Conundrum” is what we experience when we think we have real hope, but that hope is not fully scriptural and therefore lets us down. Jesus did not let us down, but our wrong understanding of what we thought Jesus should do let us down. This happens in many ways. Christians were hoping for revival on their timeframe, or that Jesus would have come back already because the preacher said so, or that their healing would have happened because someone prophesied it, or their prayer would have been answered by now because it felt powerful, etc. Simply put, God operates outside of our playbook. He is not bound to our feelings or limited understanding of His redemptive plan in any way, shape or form. **Takeaway:** We must learn to have a broad and flexible hope which acknowledges God’s redemptive plans will unfold in ways beyond what we thought they would look like. Assume you will be wrong. Expect the unexpected. If the early disciples missed it at times, you and I will too.
2. **“All”** (vv. 25-27): Jesus used the word “all” three times in reference to the Scriptures. He spoke of Moses’ writings (Genesis-Deuteronomy), the Prophets (Isaiah-Malachi) and all the Scriptures, which specifically meant the entirety of the Old Testament (Genesis-Malachi) as we understand it. First, Jesus taught about Himself in the Old Testament, which means we can and should learn about Him from Genesis-Malachi. Second, Jesus taught the importance of drawing conclusions about Him from the entire Scriptural text. This would, of course, include the New Testament as well. Bible scholars refer to this wholistic way of studying and understanding the Bible as systematic theology. In my opinion, this is the only way to truly and accurately understand God and the Bible—to prayerfully study it in its entirety over and over again. Too many today live on a sparse diet of a few favorite verses, spiritual memes and an occasional sermon. The result of this is a woefully inadequate spirituality and understanding of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Takeaway:** prayerfully study the whole Bible. We accept the entire Bible interpreting the entire Bible. Jesus is the Genesis-Revelation Jesus, not just the John 3:16 (or favorite verse) Jesus.
3. **“Ought not the Christ to have suffered”** (v. 26): Jesus didn’t suffer so we wouldn’t have to, but to give us an example of how we must persevere through suffering. If we persevere, our character deepens and we become more like Him (Romans 5:4). We do an incredible

disservice to ourselves and others if we think/teach that we will not suffer because we are Christian. Even the Christ we worship suffered immensely. Paul was told all the things he would suffer, and taught likewise (Acts 9:16, 14:22). Sufferings lead to the glories in the Christian life. **Takeaway:** we must see the redemptive value in suffering or it can make us bitter and disillusioned in seasons of trial.

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for November 19, 2021.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10 a.m. - noon. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Tomorrow night, Saturday, November 20, the GPHOP will be open at 5 p.m. for refreshments before heading out to the Parade of Lights. Come on out for warm drinks and sweet treats. We're open from 7-8 p.m. every night seven days a week. Hope to gather with you in prayer!
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Hawaii); **Alicia Wright** (India); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead the Illinois Valley House of Prayer in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, currently stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray just one-on-one. Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*