

In the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel, we see two disciples, overwhelmed by grief and disappointment after Jesus' death, walking away from Jerusalem feeling that all their hopes have been lost. They are also confused by reports from women who found the tomb empty and claimed that Jesus was alive.

As they walk and talk, a stranger joins them and asks what they are discussing. Not recognizing Him as Jesus, they share their sorrow and confusion. The stranger listens and then explains the Scriptures, showing that the Messiah's suffering was part of God's plan.

Then when they reach Emmaus, they invite Him to stay. At the table, as He breaks bread, their eyes are opened - they recognize Jesus, and He immediately disappears. In that moment, everything changes: their sorrow turns to joy, and they rush back to Jerusalem to share the good news that He is risen.

The reality of the risen Jesus changes everything for them.

This story is amazing and teaches us that Jesus' resurrection is real, confirming that He is truly alive. The story teaches us that the resurrection assures us of eternal life. As the "firstfruits," Jesus' rising points to the promise that those who in Him will also be raised. Finally, the story reminds us that even in confusion, grief, and uncertainty, we are not alone.

Like the disciples, we may not always recognize His presence, but Jesus walks beside us, listens to us, and even carries us in our hardest moments.

God is at work in all things for our good, and Easter assures us that the risen Christ is always with us.

**Christ is risen - He is risen indeed!**