

Walking To Emmaus

Voice 1

We'd meant to set off in good time this morning – it was a good seven miles, after all, and we didn't want to rush through the heat of the day. But with the women coming in and telling their tale, we weren't quite as early as we'd intended.

Voice 2

Early enough, though, we had plenty of time to talk – and plenty to talk about! It had been quite a ride, these last few days, and we both needed to work things out in our minds.

Voice 1

So when another traveller caught up with us, of course we stepped aside to let him pass, and of course he thanked us, and somehow the conversation just kept going from there.

Voice 2

It was weird, actually – he'd obviously just come from Jerusalem, but he didn't seem to know a thing about what had happened!

Voice 1

Yes, that's right. Quite startling! So Cleopas asked him outright about it, and no, he didn't seem to know what we were talking about, so we explained.

Voice 2

Told him all about Jesus, and what he'd done, and how we'd hoped – well, that seemed so far away, now.

Voice 1

But yes, we told him all that, and about the – the – that Jesus had been crucified, and – and... Sorry.

Voice 2

But we did tell him as well about the weird story the women had come out with this morning – about the angels, and the empty tomb, and all that, and how some of us had said it was just women's stories, but a couple actually'd gone and had a look, and they said yes the tomb was empty.

Voice 1

And that didn't get the reaction we expected! We half expected him to sneer at the whole thing – but he didn't – in fact he did the exact opposite!

Voice 2

Began to explain to us how we should've expected it! Seriously! And then began telling us how it was all in the Bible! Absolutely fascinating, he was! Started with Genesis and went all the way through to Malachi!

Voice 1

And there weren't many books he missed out between them, either! You'd think he'd memorised the whole thing by heart!

Voice 2

We couldn't get a word in edgeways!

Voice 1

Of course by then we weren't very far from Emmaus, so he couldn't go on too long! Interesting, though – he showed us all sorts of things that had simply never crossed our minds.

Voice 2

When we got to the village, of course we were going to our house, and so he was, like, goodbye and how much he'd enjoyed talking with us, and all.

Voice 1

But we weren't having that! Where was he going on to anyway, at that time of night! – Well, late afternoon. And it wouldn't be a problem – I was staying with Cleopas tonight anyway, so Mary probably wouldn't be too cross at one more. No, he was our guest for the night, and we weren't taking no for an answer!

Voice 2

To be fair, he didn't take much persuading!

Voice 1

Anyway, we brought him to our house, and I introduced him to Mary –

Voice 2

Mary's my wife. She came forward, smiled him a real welcome, and trod hard on my toe as she went back.

Voice 1

Anyway, while she was getting the meal ready I washed his feet and gave him a wet towel, and on Mary's signal took him into the dining room.

Voice 2

I'd laid the extra place by then, so I showed our new friend to his seat – the best seat, of course, and of course Mary invited him to say the Hamotzi to bless the food.

Voice 1

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Voice 2

And he broke the bread and began to give it out – and suddenly we saw him!

Voice 1

Why hadn't we seen him before – I mean, why hadn't we seen him properly before!

Voice 2

It was Jesus, yes it was – there before us, breaking the bread into pieces and – and –

Voice 1

We both exclaimed at once – Jesus! we gasped – and then

Voice 2

And then he was gone.

Voice 1

The bread just lay there, in bits, on the table! He'd already gone – and we just hadn't recognised him!

Voice 2

And yet, y'know, inside, we did know – we'd known all along!

Voice 1

We said that to each other – deep down, we had known, almost from when we first saw him.

Voice 2

And that's why we're back here in Jerusalem!

Voice 1

We didn't think you'd believe us – but you've seen him too, haven't you!

Voice 2

He's come back, hasn't he! Like he said – like the Bible said – and now – now we don't know anything anymore.