



## THE ROAD DAY 4

### From Hunger to Joy

We've reached the end of this particular road's journey, but it's not the end of our whole journey with God! As we set foot on the last path of this specific road, spend some time in prayer with God. Ask Him to speak to you in this time. Put yourself in a position where you can't be distracted so your attention is on Him.

Think of a memorable person you have met sometime in your life. Pause to think about that encounter:

Who was that person?

Where did you meet them?

What makes that person memorable?

Was God speaking to you through that person?

Remember where we left off in our journey along "The Road?" Our two travelers just experienced the risen Christ over a hot meal! To make matters more interesting, Jesus disappeared once He was revealed! With no other way of telling His other followers about their encounter with Jesus, our travelers have no choice but to back-track over the same stretch of road they'd walked just a few hours before. Once in Jerusalem, they told the 11 Apostles, and other disciples, about what had just happened.

Today's section of "The Road" takes our travelers from hunger for Jesus to joy in Jesus. Why hunger to joy? They recognized Him!

- \* What does the word joy mean to you?
- \* When was a time you experienced joy?
- \* What are all the ways joy can be expressed?

The travelers with Jesus had barely told their story when Jesus Himself was suddenly in the house! Everyone in the room was freaked out because they thought He was a ghost. Jesus calmed their fears by showing them the wounds on His hands and feet. By touching Him, they confirmed He was physically alive.

Luke 24:36-40 (NLT)

*“Just as they (the travelers) were telling about it (their encounter with Jesus), Jesus Himself was suddenly standing there among them. ‘Peace be with you,’ He said. The whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! ‘Why are you frightened?’ He asked. ‘Why are your hearts filled with doubt? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost. Ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.’ As He spoke, He showed them His hands and His feet.”*

His friends were still stunned and amazed. Then, Jesus asked for & ate some food to demonstrate once and for all that He wasn’t a ghost. Then, He helped them understand all that the Bible taught about Him - the Messiah.

Luke 24:44-48 (NLT)

*“He said, ‘When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then, He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ‘Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things.”*

The cross. In Jesus’ time, this was the end of the road for thousands of people. Murderers, thieves, political prisoners, and anyone the Romans wanted dead could end up here. Nailed or tied to the wood, left to die. Slowly...painfully...die. Everyone nailed here died. All but one stayed that way. For one of the thousands, this wasn’t the end.

Jesus died on the cross, but returned to life in a borrowed tomb where His body was wrapped in linen sheets and laid to rest. Something happened here that couldn’t be explained. Something happened that could hardly be *believed* by those who’d seen Him die. *Jesus rose from the dead.* He’d said He’d do it but nobody took Him seriously.

Nobody did - until life and light and something holy exploded in this dark tomb, and the Son of God shook death off like He shook off those linens.

The truth is: we sometimes want to leave Jesus on the cross. We understand Him there. We know what to do with Him there. We can admire Him, respect Him, even thank Him. When He's pinned there, we know what He is up to.

But when He's alive and on the move - what do we do with Him then? Someone who could burst out of a sealed tomb?? That person is dangerous. That person can do anything, say anything, ask anything. And show up ANYWHERE. He showed up in a room full of His disciples who were still uncertain about what exactly was coming next!

The Bible says the disciples were startled. That makes sense! The Bible says they were frightened. That makes *even more* sense. Remember – they had betrayed Jesus. When He needed them most, they'd either abandoned Him or grouped together in the background, afraid for their own safety. Now, here He was in the flesh....

They were afraid. Of course, they should have been afraid.

Then, Jesus said something that changed everything: **“There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.”**

There's forgiveness for those whose actions or words have betrayed Jesus. There's forgiveness for those who have cut corners. There's forgiveness for those who have used people. There's forgiveness for those who move in the shadows because they feel shame over what they've done or who they've become.

There's forgiveness and life because of what happened here. *What Jesus did here.* For those of us who want forgiveness, who *need* forgiveness, this is where it happens. This is where Jesus bought forgiveness for our sins.

There is nothing you can't bring here. Nothing that can't be forgiven. This is where you need to bring the weight you carry. It's here you need to leave it.



Come to the cross. Come to engage with Jesus. Here is where you can repent and turn to Him. Here is where you can express your doubts to Him. Here is where your repentance can meet a forgiveness that breathes fresh light and love into your life.

After your time at the cross, I invite you to move forward to the wide-open spaces of life. Why?? Jesus is alive and on the loose! He wants to meet you in every experience and situation where He will express His love to you at just the right time & the way you need it most.

Jesus didn't stay on the cross, but His presence will always be there. He will meet you there any time, including now. He's also on the loose, and eager to express His love and bring forgiveness to you so that you can live freely and lightly on the road.

\* Why do you think we talk with Jesus *on the road* and not just *at our destination*?

\* How has Jesus met you in the challengers you've faced throughout this "journey on the road?"

Remember – there were *two* travelers. They didn't walk the road alone. You have people walking the road *with you*: parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, pastors, youth pastors, small group leaders, teachers, and coaches. Look for them and go to them. They have something to say to you and they'll pray with you.

