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## Easter 2016 Rev. Dr. Kim Engelmann

I often wonder what the risen Jesus said to these two disciples as they walked on the road to Emmaus, that first Easter.

The distance from Jerusalem to Emmaus was about 7 miles, so those two disciples had a 7 mile Bible study that day...walking with the risen Christ.

I want to be a part of THAT Bible study!!

What must it have that been like?

The disciples' hearts burned within them as **Jesus began to show them that there was an actual plan of salvation at work, and that the death and resurrection in scripture had been prophesied thousands of years before.**

Up until now, the disciples don't know who this stranger is who walks with them for 7 miles down the road.

They don't recognize it's Jesus

And there Jesus stands with them, in classic Biblical irony; risen Lord; wanting to have a relationship with them; inserting himself into their conversation, so that he can lighten their step and give them hope – but they don't recognize him

*Is that you this morning?*

*Do you recognize that the living resurrected Christ stands next to you, and wants to journey with you in your life, and bring it meaning?*

*To let you know that your life is much more than just a bunch of random events strung together?*

*Do you recognize that there is a plan for your life today?*

*Maybe today, Easter day is the day you turn towards Jesus and you say YES...open my mind to understand...to recognize...to be involved with you in what you are doing and who you are. I want you Jesus to walk with me. I want to recognize who you are.*

Because God's resurrection plan is a plan we all need to be a part of.

I don't want to be left out of *this* plan. There's a lot of plans out there that I am okay being left out of.

Lots of people doing lots of things that I am okay not knowing about.

But I don't not want to be left out of this plan.

This is a plan written down through the centuries and orchestrated by the living God of all creation...folks, don't miss it

And I began to think about this walk that Jesus had, with these two disciples, and how he opened the scriptures to them ...showing them that He has been revealing his plan of salvation and resurrection to us from the beginning of time....

And I began to search the Old Testament for those places that Jesus might have highlighted as he journeyed with those two on the road for 7 miles...

It says that Jesus started with Moses, but even in Genesis God was a life giving **God**... - breathing life into all of creation...

And then...In **Exodus**... our God of resurrection **passes over death** for the Hebrew first born, *and with Moses as their leader he saves the people again and again from death, with manna, quail, and water in the wilderness*

Maybe Jesus said to those two on the road, "That was me saving my people, that was me giving them water when their lips were parched in the wilderness."

And perhaps the two disciples looked at each other and wondered, "Who is this stranger?"

And then in **Leviticus** – perhaps Jesus told them that this was when the feast of the First Fruits is ordained by our God – and its during this feast on the first day that Jesus is resurrected, That's why Paul refers to Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15:20 as the "first fruits from the dead."

And Jesus probably went on from there and told them that...

In **Numbers** our God of resurrection is the new life budding from Aarons rod –

In **Deuteronomy** the promised land is a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven and eternal life for Gods people...deut 18:15-19

In **Joshua** – the name Joshua is synonymous for the name Jesus –both mean "God saves"

In the book of **Judges** - our God out of mercy brings order to his chaotic people and even then, visits a barren woman and tells her his name is too wonderful to know, and then he creates life in her womb

**In the book of Ruth** – Boaz, Ruth’s future husband is called a “kinsmen redeemer” – And maybe Jesus said to those two – that’s a foretaste of the redeeming power of the cross.

Can’t you just see the two again looking at each other, wondering together “Who is this stranger?”

Not only that but Boaz, redeems Ruth an outcast Moabite widow,(no Jew could associate with a Moabite) from a life of poverty and pain – and she becomes a great great grandmother to the risen Lord himself..

Maybe these are some of the scriptures Jesus opened the minds of these two disciples to understand that day on that 7 mile walk, on that first Easter..

*Do you recognize him? The God of salvation and resurrection?  
He lives for you today, and has a plan and purpose for your life too. If you know him would you respond to me friends when I say....*

*Christ is risen!*

**Christ is risen indeed!**

I am going to go more quickly ...so fasten your seatbelt...Perhaps Jesus highlighted to those two disciples on that 7 mile resurrection walk that...

In **1 Samuel** Hannah declares in her song that it is the “Lord who brings to life”  
Or **2 Samuel** where David praises God who has rescued him from death

Maybe they talked about **1 Kings** where Gods spirit through Elijah raises a widows son from the dead

Or **2 Kings** when God raises up Hezekiah from the sick bed who was supposed to die

**1 Chronicles**, the tribe of Judah is given a new lease on life through Tamar a prostitute – who also becomes a part of Jesus’ genealogy - another outcast fulfilling Gods plan

\*In **2 Chronicles** Solomon....covenant with his people

In **Ezra and Nehemiah** the God of resurrection, calls for a re-birth of the holy city Jerusalem... that lay in ruins. The people gather and rebuild the ruins to the glory of God and the community of faith comes back to life...

In the book of **Esther**, Queen Esther like a Christ figure risks her own life to save her people from being killed – and they are saved from death...

In the book of **Job**, a book of human suffering, even after terrible loss Job declares **I know that my redeemer lives,... And . . . in my flesh shall I see God"** ([Job 19:25-26](#)).

Maybe these are some of the scriptures Jesus talked to the two disciples about that day... *Do you recognize him in these passages? The God of salvation and resurrection?*

*He lives for you today, and has a plan and purpose for your life too. If you know him and recognize him friends, would you respond to me friends when I say....*

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Then we come to the wonderful book of **Psalms** where David writes in **Psalm 16 My body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.** *(I am sure they talked about that one cause if that isn't pointing to the resurrection I don't what is)*

In the book of **Proverbs**, a collection of wisdom, we read "**The righteous have a refuge when they die.**"

In **Ecclesiastes** we read, "**that whatever God does endures forever.**"

In the **Song of Solomon** we read "**that love is as strong as death...**" reminding us of Jesus who died to give us life

In **Isaiah** the prophecy is that "**God will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;** - Isaiah 25:8

And maybe Jesus turned to the two of them and said, "I've done it on the cross. I've swallowed up death in victory."

And the two disciples looked at each other and wondered "Who is this stranger?"

In **Jeremiah** a Savior is prophesied and it is says that his name shall be, **The Lord is Our Righteousness.**

In **Lamentations** even the lamenter declares, "**You have taken up my cause O God and redeemed my life.**"

In **Ezekiel** our God of resurrection breathes life into a great multitude of dry, dry bones, and they indeed do live again.

In **Daniel** we remember God closing the lions mouths and rescuing Daniel from death –

In **Hosea** we read about new life springing up – like a shoot – and that God will heal our disloyalty and love us freely

**Joel** talks about the day when God will pour his spirit on all flesh, and that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved...

*These are some of the scriptures Jesus talked about to the two disciples that day on the road...it says he talked about all the prophets and these are the prophets folks*

*Do you recognize him in these passages? The God of salvation and resurrection?  
He lives for you today, and has a plan and purpose for your life too. If you know him and  
recognize him friends,  
would you respond to me when I say....*

“Christ is risen!”

**Christ is risen indeed!**

*And perhaps Jesus went on from there – he must of have cause here’s more prophets*

In **Amos** God tells us he is the repairer of the breach — (the separation between us and God) and that he will raise up again the ancient ruins

**Obadiah** writes about the kingdom of the Lord coming here on earth – an eternal kingdom

**Jonah** tells the story of Jonah who was preserved in the belly of the fish for three days before the fish coughed him up – rescued from death - just as Jesus was in the tomb for three days before he was resurrected. Jesus made that connection in one of his teachings...

In **Micah** we learn that God will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea and that he will save the lives of his people

In **Nahum** we hear of one who will come and “**bring good tidings and proclaim peace**” – a prophecy of Jesus quoted in the gospels

**Habbukuk** rejoices in the God of his salvation and **Zephaniah** declares that God has removed the judgments against us and will renew us in his love and gather us up and bring us home to him again.

**Haggai** refers to Jesus as the treasure of all nations;

**Zechariah** declares that Jesus will come to us lowly and riding on a donkey, and on that day he will save us

In **Malachi** we read that the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed he is coming as a refiners fire to purify us...and save us

*Do you recognize Jesus in these passages? The God of salvation and resurrection?  
He lives for you today, and has a plan and purpose for your life too. If you know him and  
recognize him friends,  
would you respond to me when I say....*

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

The same God who did all those things, who created the blueprint for salvation etched over the centuries, culminated his great plan in raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

It's the same God who had been saving us and giving us life all along; its just now its for everyone, and the new arrangement that forgives our sins and makes us friends of God is completed in the cross and culminates in resurrection victory.

This was Christ's message to the two disciples that day – his seven mile message that made their hearts burn.

When they arrived at Emmaus, he appears to be going further. But they constrain this stranger, they beg him to stay with them. *Jesus always comes when we invite him, but never intrudes on our free will.*

But they ask, they plead, they beg, so he goes in and stays with them and has a meal with them. And as he gives them the bread and wine – a symbol of his body and blood – their eyes open. They recognize him...and he vanishes.

Why didn't Jesus stay awhile? Why disappear?  
Why not engage in a little dinner conversation, now that they know who he is?

The message is clear.  
Jesus is no longer an object in the disciple's worlds – not in the flesh anymore. He is resurrected Lord and Through the bread and wine, they have taken him in. He now lives in them, and they are now filled with his presence.

Friends, he can live in your heart too.

Believe me and this congregation when we cry out Christ is risen together it means that we have experienced his resurrection power in our own lives right now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Silicon Valley.

We have experienced our hearts on fire for him, when we have asked him to forgive our sins, repair the breach by the power of the cross, and walk with us through this life and the life to come.

We celebrate today because by his grace we have been allowed by the living God to have a close friendship with him, and to engage in serving him because we are so grateful.

This is a plan you want to be a part of. Recognize the Lord of life who is present in this room today.

Who desires to fill you with his presence and walk with you, not just for 7 miles, but for all eternity.

Friends, Christ is risen  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

Let us pray....