

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 13.07.25

PREACHER: PS GLENN COCHRAN

A Long Obedience on Dust Roads

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

As we become more Christlike in our journey with Jesus, we learn to join others on the road, walking patiently, listening deeply, and letting the Spirit lead those relationships toward Christ. We don't just invite others to our journey, but with compassion and presence, we join theirs.

OVERVIEW

This week, we reflect on Jesus' encounter with two disillusioned followers on the road to Emmaus. As they walk away from Jerusalem, the centre of God's presence, Jesus joins them in their confusion, listens with compassion, and gently reveals himself through Scripture and a shared meal. This story becomes a model for how we as the Church are called to continue Christ's work: walking with others in their questions and pain, not to rush in and fix them, but to love patiently and trust the Spirit's slow, transformative work.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: Who in your life is walking away from faith, or from hope itself? How might you walk with them, without an agenda?

Step 2: Commit: Are there places where you've rushed to offer answers rather than presence?

Step 3: Ask: How can you cultivate a slower, Spirit-led rhythm of walking with others?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35

We tend to think that if God were going to do something profound, he'd do it in a big place. A church building. A stage. A big event. Somewhere "important". But the gospel writers give us a different story; story after story of failure, disruption, doubt, and yet, the ever-present faithfulness of Jesus with his friends.

Today's story from Luke, too, begins not in a temple or among crowds, but with two post-followers of Jesus walking away, broken-hearted. Away from Jerusalem, the centre of promise and God's presence. Away from hope. They're heading home to Emmaus. The name itself says it all. Emmaus means "obscure" or "despised." A fitting destination for those carrying such deep disappointment. Their hopes dashed and their belief shaken, and so they head home, back to the life they knew, but not the one they wanted.

As a modern reader, we can throw a bit of shade on these two. Such doubt! So little faith! And yet, this is precisely the road Jesus chooses to meet them on. And he treats them with such kindness, humility, and patience, even showing them a hint of playfulness.

What a strange kind of evangelism. No open-air sermon. No signs or wonders. Just a slow, dusty road and the presence of an intriguing stranger. Jesus enters their grief without fanfare, without introducing himself, or without an immediate word of correction, not to their theology nor to their doubt. He simply joins the walk, asks questions, and listens.

There's something profoundly honouring and human about this story. It's something many of us know, because we, too, have walked roads of confusion, questioning, or loss. And we know people, maybe even those close to us, who, it seems, are walking away from faith, heading in the exact opposite direction from the One who longs to bring them freedom. How do we respond? Do we try to drag them back? Do we panic?

Or do we learn from the Emmaus road?

Jesus listens. Genuinely. He doesn't just wait for his turn to talk. He asks questions. He pays attention to what they feel. And only after he has walked with them for some time does he open the Scriptures, and only when they've invited him to stay and they share a meal does he reveal the truth of who he is.

There's something in this for us as the Church. What if our calling isn't just to invite others to our space and into our journey, but to step into theirs? What if the work of the Spirit isn't always dramatic and immediate, but slow and relational?

Jesus shows us that evangelism isn't about overpowering someone with truth. But about love and wisdom that engages and listens.

When we rush to fix or convince, we can miss the sacred slowness of how the Spirit actually works. Transformation doesn't come from proving—it comes when eyes are opened, often over shared meals and trusted conversations.

And here's the invitation: We, the Church, are now Christ's Body. Which means Jesus's posture is our posture too. We're not just called to gather in buildings, but to walk the roads. To meet people in their doubts. To eat with the weary and broken-hearted. To listen without an agenda. And when the moment comes to speak with grace, trusting that God is already at work in the hearts of those we walk alongside.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1. What does it look like for us to walk with people who are moving away from faith or feeling disillusioned?
2. Why do you think Jesus waited so long to reveal Himself? What does that teach us about spiritual formation and evangelism?
3. How can we practice presence over pressure in our relationships with those who feel far from Jesus?

PRAYER

Jesus,

Teach us to walk like You—with patience, presence, and love. Give us ears to hear, hearts to listen, and feet willing to journey alongside those who feel lost. May our lives bear witness to Your gentle and faithful pursuit.

Amen.