



Our Road to Emmaus

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INTRODUCTION

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Father of five.

Husband of one.

Servant of THE ONE!



INTRODUCTION



I come to bear testimony of
Jesus Christ, His love, and His
desires for us in these last days.



INTRODUCTION

IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM!

- HIS scriptures & prophecies
- HE IS the past, present, future
- HIS story of the end-times
- Power of HIS Spirit
- HIS Church ←
- HIS Gospel
- HIS Truth
- HIS Kingdom
- HIS Zion!!!!!! ←



INTRODUCTION



JESUS'

ZION



INTRODUCTION

**“Lay Down Your
Weapons”**



INTRODUCTION

Theme: “Walking on the road to Emmaus (Listen)”



1. The Story



2. Personal Reflection



3. Our Church

**This story is
DEEP with
symbolism**





THE STORY

THE STORY

Background:

- Jesus had been crucified
- Disciples are afraid and in hiding
- He was in the tomb for three days
- The women visited the empty tomb and were told by angels that Jesus was alive
- Peter went and found the tomb empty
- Two disciples started toward Emmaus

Luke 24:12-35 (portion of the story)



Luke 24

THE STORY

12 And behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem three-score furlongs. **7.5 mi (here to MO river)**

13 And they **talked together** of all these things which had happened.

14 And it came to pass, that while they **communed together, and reasoned,** Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

15 But **their eyes were holden, or covered, that they could not know him.**

**Original Hebrew: could imply
“contention”**

**Original Hebrew: blinded by
strength from recognizing Jesus**



Luke 24

THE STORY

16 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these which ye have one with another, as ye walk and are sad? **Despair/Discouraged**

17 And one of them, whose name was **Cleopas**, answering, said unto him, Art thou a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

18 And he said unto them, What things? And **they said unto him, Concerning**

Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people;

Who was Cleopas?

Why was Jesus just a prophet to him?



Luke 24

THE STORY

19 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

20 But we trusted that it had been he who should have redeemed Israel. And besides all this, to-day is the third day since these things were done;

Doubts:

- Just a prophet
- We trusted that he had been the Messiah
- It's been three days and no one rises after the third day

The story is over. Close the book.
It was fun while it lasted.



Luke 24

THE STORY

21 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, who were early at the sepulcher;

22 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.

23 And certain of them who were with us, went to the sepulcher, and found it even so as the women had said; but him they saw not.

Doubts:

- **Even after these testimonies on the very same day, they still left Jerusalem and went back to Emmaus**



Luke 24

THE STORY

24 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

25 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

26 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

How did Jesus respond?

- Patience
- Mercy
- Compassion
- He taught

WHAT
LOVE!!!



THE STORY

Matthew 7:3

For with what judgment ye shall judge, ye shall be judged;
and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to
you again.

I want Jesus'
mercy, NOT His
judgment.



Luke 24

THE STORY

27 And they drew nigh unto the village whither they went; and he made as though he would have gone farther.

28 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

29 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed, and brake, and gave to them.

30 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him;

and he was taken up out of their sight.

Were they possibly in the upper room for the last supper?

They had an encounter with Jesus!



Luke 24

THE STORY

31 And they said one to another, Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

32 And they rose up the same hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and those who were with them,

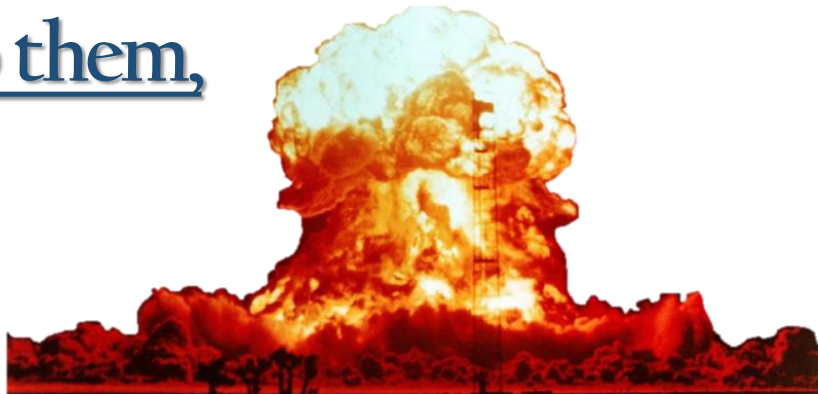
33 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.



34 And they told what things they saw and heard in the way, and how he was known to them, in breaking of bread.

35 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them,

Peace be unto you.



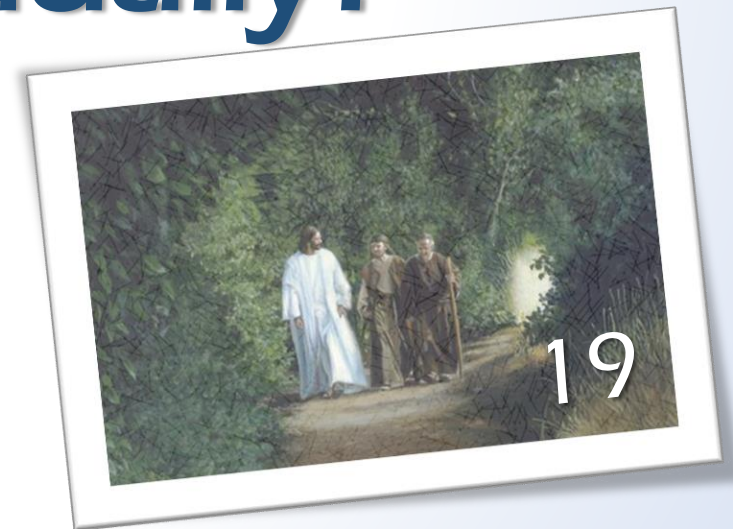
Luke 24

THE STORY

Take-Aways (Lessons):

What are some lessons and points that you see in this story that are applicable to us individually?

How about collectively?



Luke 24

THE STORY

Take-Aways (Lessons):

- Those closest to Christ still didn't believe
- Even with evidence, they still couldn't see truth (**blinded**) when He was standing right in front of them (**listen?**)
- They truly didn't understand God's plan
- They walked the wrong way and Jesus joined them



Luke 24

THE STORY

Take-Aways (Lessons):

- They encountered the risen Lord and were changed
- Jesus was merciful and compassionate
- They RAN back to tell others
- Their hearts burned within them (**listen?**)
- He spoke PEACE unto them



Luke 24

THE STORY

Take-Aways (Lessons):

- The disciples were operating with false expectations and beliefs
- They were in despair, discouraged, and had given up

48 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high. **Endowment**



Luke 24



THE STORY

Even in their rough shape, what was all that they needed?

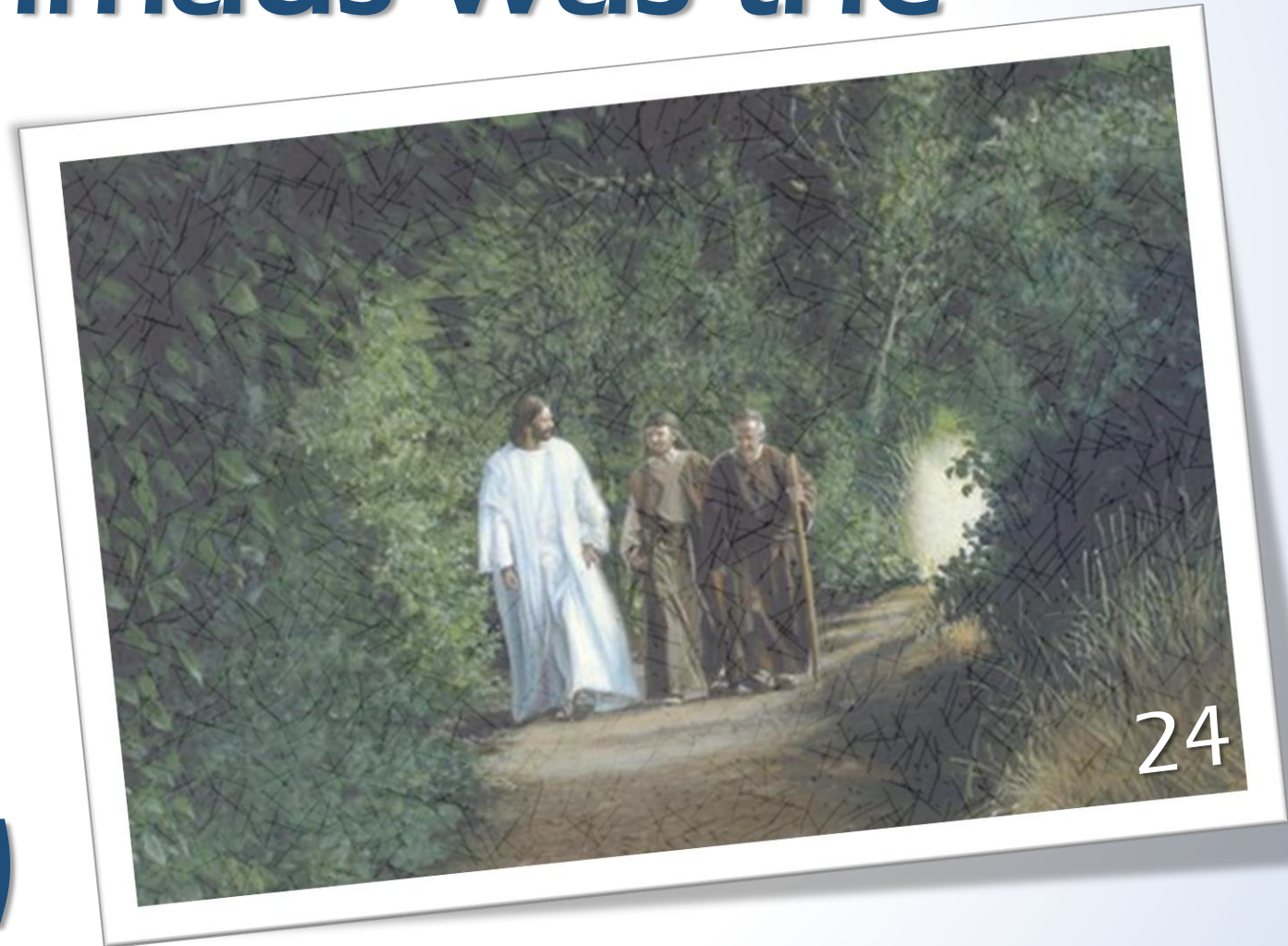
An ENCOUNTER with our Savior, Jesus Christ!



Luke 24

THE STORY

The road to Emmaus was the beginning of the **POWER** being given unto the **Apostles.** (belief)





PERSONAL REFLECTION

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Questions:

- Is it possible that I am in this same story today?
- Is it possible that I don't truly hear Jesus and I'm operating on shaky foundations of false beliefs and expectations?
- Am I in despair?
- Do I have His image in my countenance?
- Is it possible I'm walking the wrong way?



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Questions:

- Have I truly had an encounter with my Lord?
- Do I have a personal relationship with Jesus?
- Am I ready and willing to RUN to New Jerusalem/Zion?
- Is the Spirit burning within me?
- Am I preparing for the endowment?
- Am I ready to go forward with Jesus?



PERSONAL REFLECTION

I need JESUS
so very
much!!!

TRUTH



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Luke 16:18

Since that time, the kingdom of God is preached, and every man who seeketh truth presseth into it.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

...there cometh **a falling away, by the working of Satan** with all power, and signs and lying wonders, And with **all deceivableness of unrighteousness** in them that perish; because they **received not the love of the TRUTH,** that they might be saved. **..but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

Do I have pleasure in unrighteousness?



PERSONAL REFLECTION

John 3:19-22

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. For every one who doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he who loveth TRUTH, cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest. And he who obeyeth the TRUTH, the works which he doeth they are of God.



PERSONAL REFLECTION FOCUS ON TRUTH

**Is it possible that I'm not aligned
with my Savior as I should be?**

I'm realizing more and more how
asleep I've been and still am.

Definition of Insanity



PERSONAL REFLECTION

D&C 76:6d-f

These are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men: these are they who receive of his glory, but not of his fullness; these are they who receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father; wherefore they are bodies terrestrial, and not bodies celestial, and differ in glory as the moon differs from the sun;



PERSONAL REFLECTION

2 Nephi 12:23-26 – the devil pacifies and lulls people into carnal security who will say: “all is well in Zion”

D&C 105:9a-10b – all flesh has become corrupt before me, first among those who professed to know me, but have NOT known me

D&C 1:3 – EVERY man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

2 Nephi 3:62 – I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh.

I cannot TRUST in others.

I cannot TRUST
in myself!!!



PERSONAL REFLECTION

TRUTH

I am in great
need of
repentance!



PERSONAL REFLECTION

If I can't trust in myself, I need to be better at

LISTENING!

How do I cultivate the
environment where the Holy
Spirit can dwell in power?



PERSONAL REFLECTION

PRACTICE!

**Listening can be a gift, but
it is also an acquired and
fine-tuned skill.**



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lessons that changed my life:

1. Power of Praising (*Psalms 100*)
2. Mighty Prayers (*Praying Late Into the Night*)
3. Communing with God (*“Practicing His Presence” book by Brother Lawrence & Frank Laubach*)
4. Thinking of God (*3 Nephi 11:19-21*)
5. Leaving A Blessing (*Pray in the Spirit*)



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lesson: Power of Praising (Psalms 100)

1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

2 Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

I need my
Lord so very
much!!!



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lesson: Mighty Prayer (D&C 28:1a)

Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the great I AM, whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins, who will gather his people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, even as many as:

1. will hearken to my voice, and
2. humble themselves before me, and
3. call upon me in mighty prayer.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

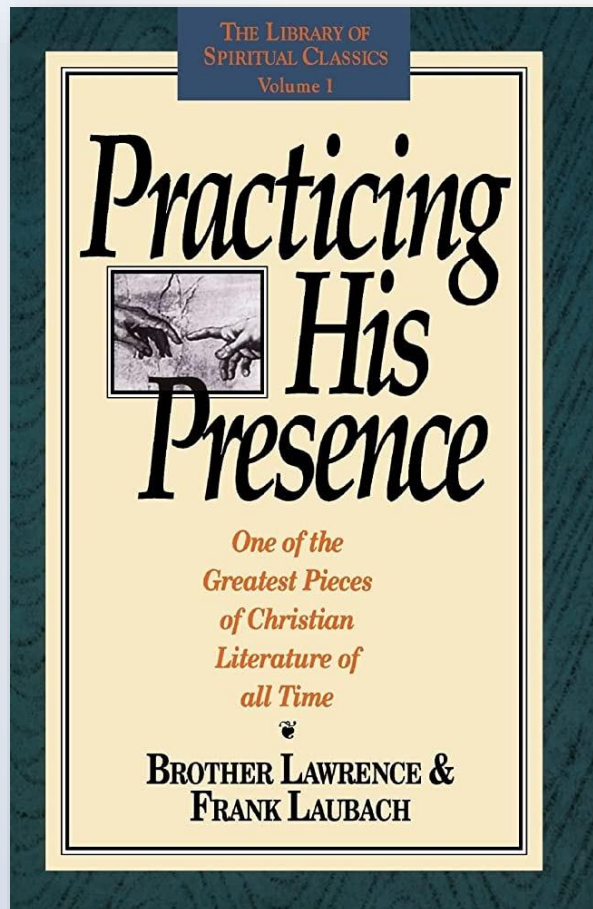
I need my
JESUS'
help!!!

TRUTH



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lesson: Communing with God



“Practicing His Presence” book by Brother Lawrence & Frank Laubach

Can you think of God every minute for an entire hour?



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Alma 17:68-70

O remember my son, and

- learn wisdom in thy youth; yea,
- learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and
- cry unto God for all thy support; Yea,
- let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and
- whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea,
- let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea,
- let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever;



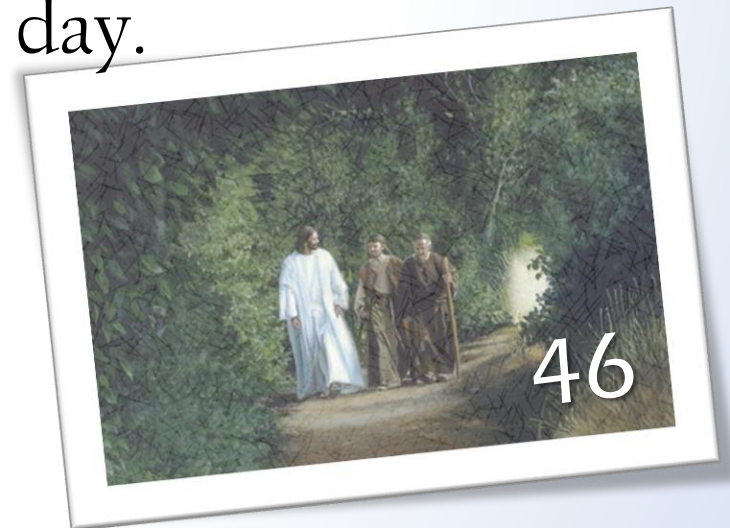
PERSONAL REFLECTION

Alma 17:68-70

- counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good:
- Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and
- when thou riseth in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and
- if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

**Can you think of God every minute
for an entire hour?**

This is an environment of listening.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

TRUTH

I need His
presence so
very much!!!



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lesson: Thinking of Him (3 Nephi 11:19-21)

19 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened, and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

20 And they shall be MINE, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

21 Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lesson: Thinking of Him (3 Nephi 11:19-21)

1. they that feared the Lord
2. spake often one to another
3. that thought upon his name
4. that serveth him

20 And they shall be MINE, saith the Lord of hosts...



PERSONAL REFLECTION

TRUTH

I want Him
to claim me at
the last day!



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lesson: Leaving A Blessing

Numbers 6:22-26

DISCERNMENT

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them,

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;

The Lord make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

I need to be
in tune with
my God!

TRUTH



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Lessons that changed my life:

1. Power of Praising (*Psalms 100*)
2. Mighty Prayers (*Praying Late Into the Night*)
3. Communing with God (*“Practicing His Presence” book by Brother Lawrence & Frank Laubach*)
4. Thinking of God (*3 Nephi 11:19-21*)
5. Leaving A Blessing (*Pray in the Spirit*)



PERSONAL REFLECTION

How to listen?

Cultivate the environment where the Holy Spirit can dwell in power. Then squint with your Spiritual eyes.

Homeless requesting things.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Carrying God's Spirit and the mantle of Priesthood authority will bring attention from the enemy. We need to be listening to the Holy Spirit.

Man staring me down at my job in Belton.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

D&C 104:9

The power and authority of the higher, or Melchisedec, priesthood, is:

- to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church;
- to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven;
- to have the heavens opened unto them;
- to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn; and
- to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

2 Nephi 12:90

For the TIME speedily cometh, that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire.



Serve God



Fight against Zion



PERSONAL REFLECTION

D&C 102:5a-b

Behold, I have commanded my servant Baurak Ale, to say unto the strength of my house, even my warriors, my young men and middle-aged, to gather together for the redemption of my people, and throw down the towers of mine enemies, and scatter their watchmen; but the strength of mine house have not hearkened unto my words; but inasmuch as there are those who have hearkened unto my words, I have prepared a blessing and an endowment for them, if they continue faithful.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Listening takes
PRACTICE.





OUR CHURCH

OUR CHURCH

Road to Emmaus (Lesson on Listening):

Is it possible that I don't truly see or hear Jesus because I'm operating on shaky foundations of false believes and expectations?

Result:

Complete **BLINDNESS**
& the inability to **HEAR** Jesus



OUR CHURCH

Road to Emmaus (Lesson on Listening):

Emmaus reveals how easily we set up blinders that keep us from the truth that God has for us and the plan for what is to come.

I DON'T WANT BLINDERS!

I want to see, even if it's painful how much change is needed within myself – even if I see how we, as a church, have been wrong for so many years.

**Are we willing to see TRUTH,
or do we want our blinders?**



OUR CHURCH

Our Most Important Sense?



Spiritual Discernment



VISION



HEARING



SMELL



TASTE



TOUCH



63

OUR CHURCH

Road to Emmaus (Lesson on Listening):

Is it possible that I am blind and deaf?

Is it possible that I'm standing on sandy foundations of false beliefs & traditions?

Are there things keeping me from hearing God's voice?



God's WISDOM

HUMILITY

REPENT

LISTEN

I need
direction &
guidance

Sins &
False
Beliefs



OUR CHURCH

Obedience: A Requirement of Discernment

“When we fail to obey, we lose our keen ability to discern.

Our consciences become seared, and our discernment becomes cloudy. Spiritual discernment works fully only when we desire to obey and actually do obey God’s directives...

A believer won’t have spiritual discernment if he chooses to sin when he knows God’s will and ignores it.”

“When the Enemy Strikes”

by Charles Stanley



OUR CHURCH

Road to Emmaus (Lesson on Listening):

- Discernment is needed for the decisions of the church
- Without Spiritual direction, we're going to get what we've always gotten
- Jesus is the answer, if we're seek Him

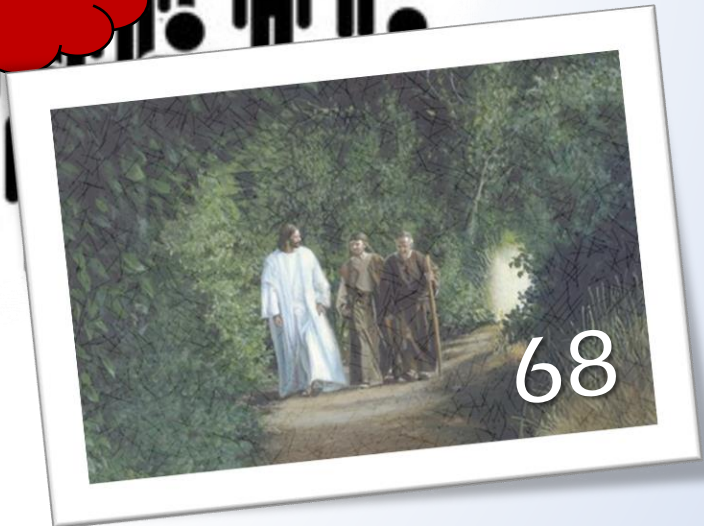


OUR CHURCH

Natural Man:



CONFERENCE
OF
RESTORATION
ELDERS



OUR CHURCH

With JESUS:



CONFERENCE
OF
RESTORATION
ELDERS

OUR CHURCH

If we cannot agree, can we stop to
pray and seek God's Spirit?

To seek God's truth?

To seek Jesus?



OUR CHURCH

Genesis 9:21-23

And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant, which I made unto thy father

Enoch; that, when men should keep **all my**

commandments, Zion should again come on the earth, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself.

(cont. →)



OUR CHURCH

Matthew 22:35-39

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him,

- Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.
- And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.



OUR CHURCH

Genesis 9:21-23

(←cont.) And this is mine everlasting covenant, **that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward,** then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch.



OUR CHURCH

TRUTH

Jesus is
LOVE!
Jesus is
TRUTH!



OUR CHURCH

We are walking wither we know not where – without purpose

Are we tired of walking the wrong way?

Are we tired of continuing to do what we've always done and getting what we've always gotten?

**We NEED an encounter
with Jesus!!!**



OUR CHURCH

AM I WILLING TO LISTEN?

Thankfully, the Lord is calling. What is He saying?

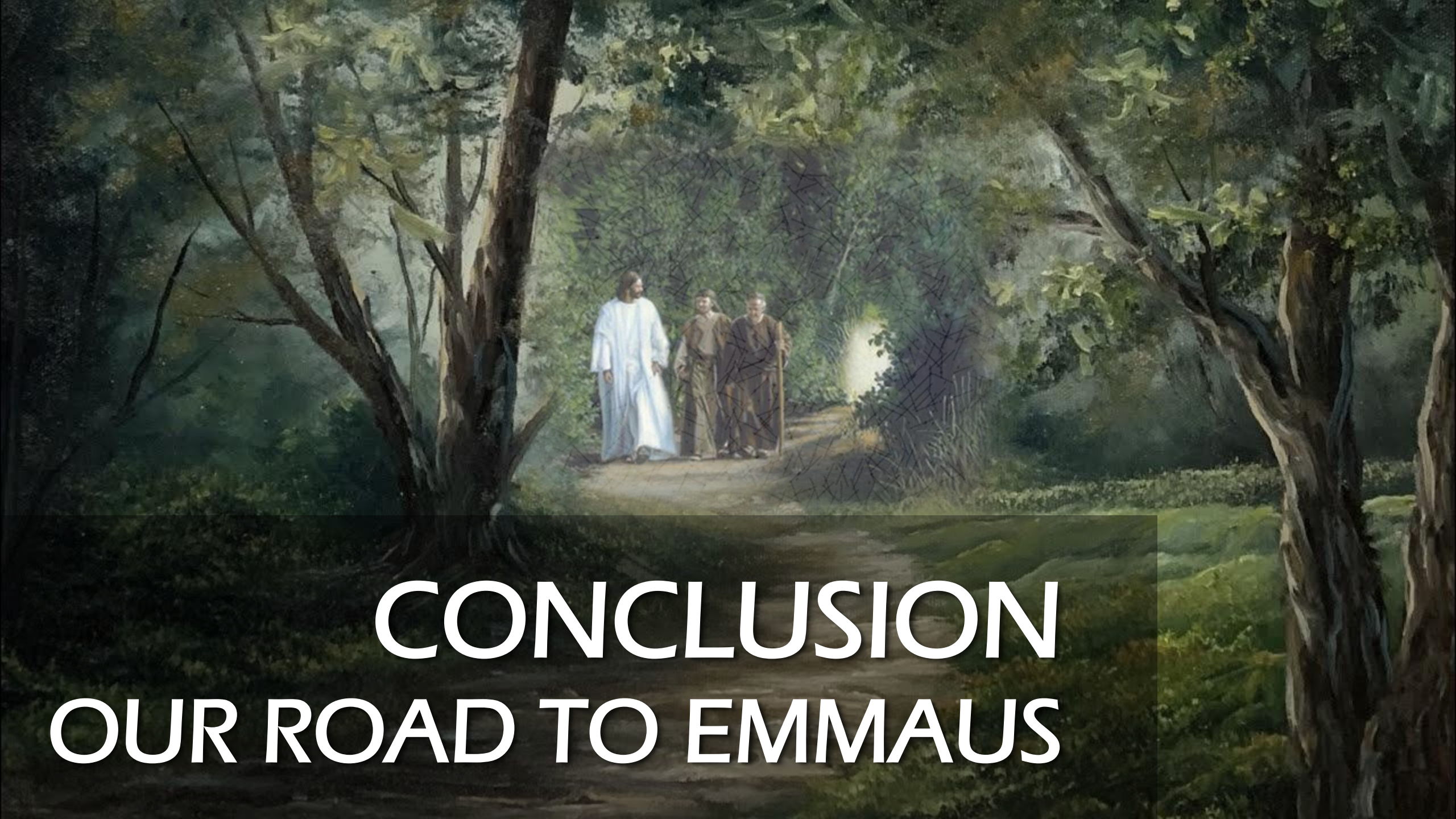
MESSAGE:

1. Know the Holy Spirit as our guide; having oil in our lamps like the five wise virgins (Matthew 25:1-11 / D&C 45:10b).
2. Remove the barriers and hinderances to the achievement of Zion - tear down the walls that divide us (D&C 138:3b).



A painting depicting a scene in a forest. In the center, three figures are walking along a dirt path that leads into the distance. The figure on the left is dressed in a long, flowing white robe, with a halo-like glow around his head, suggesting he is Jesus. He is walking towards the right. The two figures on the right are dressed in simple, earthy brown robes. One of them is leaning on a wooden staff. The forest is dense with tall trees and thick foliage, with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a dappled light effect on the path. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

CONCLUSION



CONCLUSION

OUR ROAD TO EMMAUS

CONCLUSION

Take-Aways (Lessons):

- As those who should be closest to Christ (**Melchizedek priesthood**), do I really believe?
- With all kinds of evidence, can we see truth (**blinded**) when He is standing right in front of us (**listen?**)?
- Do we truly understand God's plan?
- We've been walking the wrong way, and yet, Jesus joins us



CONCLUSION

Take-Aways (Lessons):

- Jesus wants to have an encounter with us and be changed
- Jesus is merciful and compassionate to us
- Are we ready to turn back from our wrong way?
- Does your heart burns within you (**listen?**)
- He speaks PEACE unto us!



CONCLUSION

Take-Aways (Lessons):

- Like the disciples, are we operating with false expectations and beliefs?
- Maybe we're in despair, discouraged, and feel like given up

48 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high. **Endowment**





CONCLUSION

IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM!

- HIS scriptures & prophecies
- HE IS the past, present, future
- HIS story of the end-times
- Power of HIS Spirit
- HIS Church
- HIS Gospel
- HIS Truth
- HIS Kingdom
- HIS Zion!!!!!!



CONCLUSION



JESUS'
ZION



CONCLUSION



I come to bear testimony of
Jesus Christ, His love, and His
desires for us in these last days.



CONCLUSION



Time to put Jesus back on His throne in Zion!

CONCLUSION



Time to put Jesus back on His throne in Zion!
Time for Jesus to be our heart's desire!
Time to walk as He walks!

CONCLUSION

3 Nephi 13:5

Therefore what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, Even as I am.
And now I go unto the Father.

“Come unto me...and learn of me.”
Matthew 11:29-30



CONCLUSION

“Walk NOT as men”
(mankind from the fall)

EMBRACE the TRUTH & LOOK UP

PRACTICE LISTENING!



CONCLUSION

Walking NOT as Men:

- The journey to Emmaus was made by men walking in their own power, their own wisdom, their own understanding – who were blind, deaf, and misled
- Going back they were witnesses that were transformed by the POWER of Jesus Christ
- We must LISTEN & DISCERN God's voice and His will for us individually and for the church



CONCLUSION

Christ loves us so much that He walks
down this wrong road with us.

He is calling us to listen to Him and do
what He asks of us.

All for our benefit – for the
benefit of the whole world.



CONCLUSION

3 Nephi 10:1-4

But if they will

- repent, and
- hearken unto my words, and
- harden not their hearts,

I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; (cont. →)



CONCLUSION

3 Nephi 10:1-4

And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; and then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.



CONCLUSION

3 Nephi 10:1-4

And **then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst,**

and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people.



CONCLUSION

We need
JESUS so
very much!!!



CONCLUSION

Romans 13:11-14

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.


(cont. →)



CONCLUSION

Romans 13:11-14

(←cont.) **Let us walk honestly [NOT AS MEN]**, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But **put ye on the Lord**

Jesus  **Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to gratify the lusts thereof.



CONCLUSION

D&C 122:17b

Let nothing separate you from each other and the work whereunto you have been called; and

I will be with you by my Spirit and presence of power unto the end. Amen.



JESUS'
ZION



Numbers 6:22-26

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;

The Lord make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.



THE END