

# When “We Had Hoped” Meets a Faithful Savior

Disappointment has a way of quieting our hope. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we sometimes find ourselves saying, “We had hoped...” Life doesn’t always unfold the way we expected. Nevertheless, during those moments of confusion and discouragement we can learn something very important about Jesus that we must take with us into the new year. Why is it so important? Let’s find out.

## Read Luke 24:13-14.

This verse begins with “that very day.” **To what day was Luke referring? What were the disciples discussing?** Take a moment to imagine how they sounded and what they might actually be saying. **If you could predict their mood, what would it be?**

We’ve all been there – disappointed. Sometimes there is nothing better than going for a long walk with a friend and venting. Like the disciples we may not have all of the information, but it helps us process when we can talk to someone else about how we are feeling. *When was the last time this happened to you?*

## Read Luke 24:15-17.

Let’s focus first on verse 15. While they were talking, Jesus did two things. **What were they?**

Doesn’t it stir your heart to see that in this tender moment of confusion and discouragement, Jesus did not withdraw? Instead, He drew near. He walked alongside them. In [Hebrews 13:8](#) we’re told that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and, forever. Do you realize what this means? In your moments of discouragement, when nothing makes sense, Jesus is right there with you every step of the way. Sometimes, though, we may miss him. Verse 16 of the Amplified version says, “ But their eyes were [miraculously] kept from recognizing him.” **Why do you think this happened?**

## Read Luke 24:25, 30-32.

Jesus identified why the disciples did not recognize Him in verse 25. **Why was that the case?**

There was a cure though. **When did these men begin to recognize who Jesus really was?**

The only way to prevent discouragement from turning into despair is to spend time with Jesus. As we experience His presence, listen to His words through Scripture, and commune with him in solitude, we will see Him more clearly. Our hearts will be filled with hope, and like the disciples, we will be too excited to keep the news to ourselves. **Where might Jesus be walking with you right now—quietly present—even in a place of disappointment or unmet expectations?**

Even in moments of disappointment, Jesus is faithfully walking beside us, restoring hope one step at a time.

*Jesus, thank You for meeting us on the road when our hearts are heavy and our hopes feel fragile. You see our disappointment, our confusion, and the quiet places where our faith feels tired. Help us recognize Your presence even when we don’t understand the path ahead. Rekindle our hope, open our eyes to Your truth, and remind us that we never walk alone. As we continue forward, anchor our hearts to You, the One who never changes and never leaves us. Amen.*

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