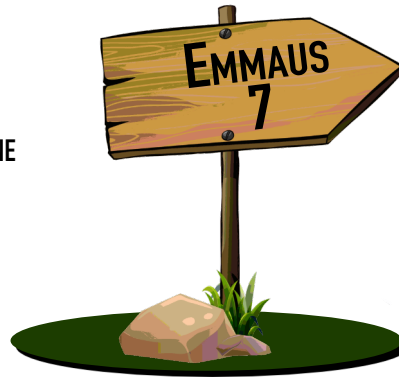


WE HAD HOPED THAT HE WAS THE ONE
TO REDEEM ISRAEL, BUT NOW ALL
THESE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.



THE ROAD TO EMMAUS, PART 1

HOPELESSNESS—A NECESSARY STARTING PLACE IN OUR QUEST FOR JOY

I. THE SLOUGH OF DESPAIR: HOPELESSNESS OVERCAME THE TWO PILGRIMS THROUGH THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS—EVENTS WHICH CULMINATED IN THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS, LUKE 24:13-21A.

- (Luke 24:13–21a ESV) That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

II. THE ROUTE TO DESPAIR: HERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE EVENTS THAT BROUGHT THEM TO THE SLOUGH OF DESPAIR.

(THURSDAY EVENING) The beginning of Jewish Friday ... The passover meal in the upper room ...

- (Luke 22:14–15 ESV) And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, “I have

earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

During the passover meal Christ speaks of their exalted place in the kingdom of God in the midst of their petty arguments as to whom is the greatest ...

- (Luke 22:24, 28 ESV) A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. 28 “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, 29 and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, 30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Judas takes the morsel of bread, Satan entered into him and he went out into the night to betray Christ ...

- (John 13:21–27, 30 ESV) After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus’ side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” 26 Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” 30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

After Judas's departure they sang a hymn and left the upper room and went out to the Mount of Olives where Jesus predicted their falling away and Peter's denial ...

- (Mark 14:26–31 ESV) And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ 28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 29 Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” 30 And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” 31 But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

(EARLY FRIDAY MORNING) They went to the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane where our Lord anguishes over the will of the Father ... and asks if possible that the cup—his death on the cross—would pass from him. Christ prayed until his betrayer was at hand.

- (Mark 14:26 ESV) And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
- (Mark 14:32–42 ESV) And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” 35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” 37 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 39 **And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.** 40 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. 41 And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 **Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.**”

The Jewish leaders come to Gethsemane led by Judas and

take Jesus into custody ...

- (Luke 22:47–53 ESV) **While he was still speaking, there came a crowd,** and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” 49 And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. 52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. **But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**”

Still before dawn on Friday ... Jesus is examined by Annas, the ex-high priest ...

- (John 18:12–14 ESV) **So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him.** 13 First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.
- (John 18:19, 24 ESV) The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 24 **Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.**

(STILL BEFORE DAWN ON FRIDAY) ... Annas sends Jesus to the residence of Caiaphas the high priest where he is tried and condemned by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin ...

- (John 18:24 ESV) **Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.**
- (Matthew 26:57 ESV) **Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest,** where the scribes and the elders had gathered.
- (Matthew 26:59–68 ESV) **Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,** 60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” 62 And the high priest stood up and

said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" 63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66 What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." 67 Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

(IT IS NOW AFTER DAWN) ... Jesus is formally condemned by the Sanhedrin.

- (Luke 22:66–71 ESV) **When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council,** and they said, 67 "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, 68 and if I ask you, you will not answer. 69 But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." 70 So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, **"What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."**

Jesus is delivered before Pilate.

- (Luke 23:1–5 ESV) **Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate.** 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." 3 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." 5 But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

Jesus is taken before Herod.

- (Luke 23:6–12 ESV) **When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. 7 And when he learned that he belonged to**

Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. 8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. 9 So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. 10 **The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. 11 And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.** 12 And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Jesus is taken to stand before Pilate a second time and Pilate delivers Jesus over to the chief priests and the rulers and the people to be crucified.

- (Luke 23:13–25 ESV) **Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,** 14 and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, **I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.** 16 I will therefore punish and release him." 18 But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— 19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. 20 Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, 21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" 22 A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." 23 **But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.** 24 So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, **but he delivered Jesus over to their will.**

(CONTINUING INTO FRIDAY MORNING) ... Jesus is taken to Golgotha and crucified.

- (Mark 15:22–24a ESV) **And they brought him to the place called Golgotha** (which means Place of a Skull). 23 And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 **And they crucified him.**

(FRIDAY AFTERNOON) ... Jesus dies on the cross.

- (Luke 23:44–46 ESV) It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

The aftershock of Jesus' death is described.

- (Matthew 27:51–52 ESV) And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

(FRIDAY EVENING) ... Joseph of Arimathea requests and is given the body of Jesus and he buries him.

- (Matthew 27:57–60 ESV) When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

CONCLUSION: So WHAT WENT WRONG?

I. EVERYTHING HAD GONE EXACTLY AS PLANNED.

- (Acts 2:22–23 ESV) Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

II. JESUS HAD REVEALED THE PLAN TO THEM.

- (Luke 24:6–7 ESV) He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.

III. THEIR SCRIPTURES REVEALED EVERYTHING ABOUT CHRIST AND THESE NECESSARY EVENTS.

- (Luke 24:44 ESV) Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THEIR PLAN? JESUS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE!

1. They didn't carefully listen to Christ or to Scripture.

- (Mark 4:21–25 NLT) Then Jesus asked them, "Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine. 22 For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light. 23 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." 24 Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. 25 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."

2. They didn't believe all the Scriptures.

MacArthur ... It wasn't that they didn't believe the Scripture; they did. It wasn't that they didn't think God wrote the Scripture; they did. It was because they had satisfied themselves with a limited understanding of Scripture.

3. They only believed what they wanted to believe and already believed.

—>BECAUSE THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH A LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE ...

4. They were not looking for Messiah to make payment for their sins but to give them a better life here and now.
5. And so they missed the gospel.
6. The gospel was unfolding before their eyes and they missed it because they wanted something else because they thought something else was better.
7. They preferred a better life over the forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God.