

Sneaky Jesus

Luke 24:13-35 on 2019-04-28 by Ben Deaver @ Tallgrass Church

Intro:

- Sometimes I try to be sneaky. I'm like, "Hey, I noticed that you seem to be really gifted with graphic design." What's coming next? Yeah, so I can't get away with being sneaky so much anymore.
- Guess Who's really good at being sneaky?

Recap:

- *Our King & Kingdom* sermon series is wrapping up!
- *Relating* sermon series coming up
- The Upside-Down Kingdom

Sneaky Jesus

- Last week we ended in Luke with an empty tomb, some excited women, and some doubting men.
- We end up where we started, with Jesus being sneaky. He snuck into the world as a little baby and He's sneaking out without much fanfare too.
- We pick up in Luke on a road seven miles from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:13-14

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

- What went wrong? I really thought He was the One.

Luke 24:15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

- Jesus sneaks up on 'em. "Jesus, You so sneaky!" Say, "Jesus, You so sneaky!"
- First of all, Jesus was just brutally crucified and then rose again. Now He's seven miles from Jerusalem, walking?!?! The Swoon Theory holds no water!
- Jesus is so sneaky, He may be sneaking up and walking next to you and you don't even realize it.

Luke 24:16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

- Why is this? Maybe Jesus shaved His beard after the Resurrection!?!? Or maybe there was a different reason.

Luke 24:17 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.

- It's a terribly sad situation when all hope is lost.
- Sad looking situation. Sometimes I look over at Maddox and I can see his sadness. That breaks my heart.
- Jesus is present with their pain. He doesn't rush past it.
- *End of the Road* by Boyz II Men
Although we've come
To the end of the road
Still I can't let go
It's unnatural
You belong to me
I belong to you

Luke 24:18 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?”

- “Good to meet you, Cleopas! Mind if I call you Cleo?”
- One of the possible reasons Luke includes Cleo’s name is because Cleo was still alive when this written and Luke was encouraging people to go find Cleo and hear his testimony. Great evidence for the Resurrection!
- The other disciple goes unnamed. Not sure why. Maybe Jesus forgot to get his name. Probably not.
- One author writes that "Luke's failure to identify Cleophas' companion by either name or gender may well be a strategy of inviting the reader to identify implicitly with that person, and thus to make the journey as Cleophas' companion."

Luke 24:19a And he said to them, “What things?”

- “Watchu talkin’ ‘bout, Willis?”
- I picture Jesus giddy with excitement. The hard work has been finished. Now it’s time for the fun stuff.

Read Luke 24:19b-24

PRAY

Why were their eyes kept from recognizing Jesus? V. 16

Miracles Aren’t Enough to Sustain Faith

- V. 19 “...Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed...”
- A few miracles here and there will not sustain your faith, dear friends. Do you believe that God created the world? If so, that’s miracle enough. That’s a big deal.
- They had seen Jesus’ power. But it wasn’t enough to sustain their faith.
- **Luke 16:19-31** “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.”
- What do you think the people would have done if Jesus pulled Himself off of the cross when they were mocking Him? When they said, “You saved others. Now save yourself.” I think they would’ve chased Him down and tried to nail Him back up there.

Studying the Scriptures Isn’t Enough

Merely studying the Scriptures isn’t enough either.

- V. 19 “Mighty in word...”
- Jesus’ words to the religious scholars in **John 5:39-40** ³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.
- All world religions and even secular worldviews have nice, pithy statements that you could put up on your bathroom wall for daily reminders or put in your journal for motivation or send to friends in a card to inspire them...but they are not enough to sustain faith over a lifetime.
- We need a Christ-centered view of the Scriptures to sustain our faith over a lifetime.
- In fact, we need Jesus Himself to help us see Him clearly in Scripture. That’s why He sent us the Helper, His Spirit!

My Own Experiences Aren't Enough

- V. 21 "But we had hoped..." While they were with Jesus they had hope. Their hope wasn't sustaining.
- For these two disciples even the physical presence of Jesus wasn't enough. They needed something more.
- A few liver shivers with Jesus will not sustain your faith, dear friends. We all have some spiritual encounters that feel good. That's great. But that won't sustain you through the long haul.
- Once you know that you can trust the Scriptures, the Words of Jesus, then you can trust your experiences with Jesus.
- *Wedding Vows Illustration:* I think about my relationship with Maris. I'm free to experience security in that relationship because I believe the words she spoke on our wedding day when we took our wedding vows. The thing that sustains the strength of our relationship isn't our great experiences but the truthfulness of the words that were spoken.

Testimonies Aren't Enough

- V. 22 "Some women of our company amazed us..." "they came back saying..."
- Good testimonies aren't enough to sustain faith over a lifetime.
- **Luke 24:10-11** "¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them."
- Why in the world did Cleo and his buddy leave when they left? Why not stay just one more day to see if what the crazy women said might possibly be true?
- If you're exploring the claims of the Risen Jesus, don't leave too soon. Stick with your journey a little longer.
- What happens to your faith when that person you admired falls away from God?

Luke 24:25-27

²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

- Jesus had to return from the dead to teach His followers how to study the Bible. He also had to conquer death but they needed help with understanding the proper paradigm through which to view the Scriptures. He had to show them why He had to die. They still weren't getting it.
- Clear interpretation/understanding of the Scriptures is key to lifelong faith, not the miraculous or the experiential, seeing Jesus clearly in the Scriptures is the key to lifelong faith.
- Jesus is so sneaky. He snuck Himself into the Hebrew Scriptures from start to finish!

Where's Jesus?

- Cleopas and his friend couldn't find Jesus. He wasn't in the tomb. They couldn't recognize Him with them on the road. Jesus shows them where He is.
- Remember playing Where's Waldo? So much fun. Straining your eyes, craning your neck, until you spot him. Once you see him your eyes are always drawn to where he's at.
- Zoom in picture.
- So Where's Jesus? is like playing Where's Waldo except it's a lot easier because Jesus is everywhere and Waldo is in only one place. We get so many clues from New Testament authors that it's crazy. We also have the help of the Spirit.
- Once we bought a black Pontiac Vibe we started seeing it everywhere. Know what I'm talking about? Once you get an eye for Jesus in the Scriptures you'll see Him everywhere and it will strengthen your faith if you have it or help show you that you should put your faith in Jesus in the first place.

So I ask again. Why were their eyes kept from recognizing Jesus?

- Jesus was going to go away. They had to see Jesus in the Scriptures to sustain a life of faith. God graciously kept them from seeing Jesus until they saw Jesus in the Scriptures.
- They can't put their hope in the physical presence of Jesus because He's about to leave for awhile and not come back for quite some time.
- I hope this is helpful for your study of the Scriptures.

Where's Jesus? Everywhere!

1. Prophecy
2. Foreshadowing (Figuratively Present)
3. Literal Presence

Jesus is the interpretive key to all of Scripture.

- This is His sneaky way to solidify our faith time and time again.
- Jesus is figuratively **AND** literally present throughout the Old Testament.
- Let's look for Jesus in the Old Testament.

1. Prophecy – OT Prophecy Pointing to Jesus

"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

- **Summarize Acts 8:26-31** ²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
- **Acts 8:32-35** ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.
- **Isaiah 53:7-8**, written 700 years before Christ.
- **More prophecy:** See Psalm 22 and Daniel 9
- *Discovering God* by Dennis McCallum (\$FREE.99)
- BTW, fulfilled prophecy is the way that God proves His Scriptures are true. There's nothing else like it in the whole world.

2. Foreshadowing – Jesus is Figuratively Present in the OT

- *The Jesus Storybook Bible* shows Jesus' figurative presence in every story. *Every story whispers His Name.*
- Examples: Adam, the Priesthood, King David, Animal Sacrifices, the Passover Lamb, the Serpent in the Wilderness, the Temple, Solomon, Shepherds, Manna, Jonah, Job, Melchizedek, etc.
- Many of these connections are explicitly stated but we can also see connections to Christ in the OT that aren't explicit but are still valid.
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3. Literal Presence – Jesus is Literally Present in the OT

- Examples: The Angel of the Lord, visions people have, Physical presence indicated
- Jesus is everywhere in the Old Testament. To know this has helped my study of the OT big time.

New Testament—Gospel Circles—Gospel, Gospel Truths, Gospel Conduct

- The Gospels are clearly about Jesus. The New Testament letters are too. Paul always links our behavior to the Gospel, not Old Testament law. We're under the law of Christ. Grace takes us much further than the OT law ever could. Love always issues in action that is rooted in the Gospel.
- The whole New Testament points straight to Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:28-29a ²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ^{29a}but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent."

- Still being sneaky.

Supper at Emmaus by Caravaggio

- Jesus is beardless. Maybe that's why they didn't recognize Him!?!?

Luke 24:29ba-31 ^{29b}So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

- When Jesus extended His arms to give them the bread they immediately recognized Him. How?
- Jesus wanted them to see Jesus every time they broke bread.
- This was His Body, broken for them just days before, on the cross. This is His Body, figuratively, broken for us, on the cross, almost 2000 years ago.
- Explain Lord's Supper at Tallgrass Church
 - Typically on fifth Sundays.
 - Celebratory rather than somber.
 - Relational rather than ritualistic.
 - ???
 - ???
 - ???
- Jesus vanished...but He was still present in His Word.

Scary Steps of Faith:

1. Look for Jesus!

- In the Scriptures—**Psalm 1:1-2** Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- In your life—Where's He sneaking up on you? He's right alongside you, no matter what. No matter how much your hope is lost and you are sad, He's there. No matter what your circumstances, a lost job, a miscarriage, a broken marriage, a difficult child, your longing to be married, your disappointment with career, the shame you carry, Jesus is sneaking up to walk alongside you. Fix your eyes on Him!
 - Hebrews 12:1-3** ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus (fixing our eyes on Jesus), the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

2. Follow Jesus!

- a. Walk in good works—**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- b. Sneak up on others...not in a creepy way, but a winsome way. You have vision for their life way beyond what they realize.

Luke 24:32 ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

- Their eyes were opened and they recognized Him in the breaking of bread.
- **Luke 4:4** “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” **Deuteronomy 8:3** “...but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”
- When has your heart burned within you?
- They went and told folks about this awesome development.
- They had to wait for the Spirit of God to fill them before they could use this knowledge of the Scriptures. Imagine that. They could not just take this understanding of the Word of God and put it to good use apart from the Spirit of God quickening people’s minds to understand.
- The rest of the New Testament is written by Spirit-filled believers who are showing the church how to live in light of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus.
 - Their hearts burned because the Scriptures were opened up to them, not because they were in the literal presence of the risen Son of God.
 - We have access to the same Scriptures that they did. And even more so.
 - Luke doesn’t give us the details of that first Bible study with Jesus. Why not? I don’t think Luke wanted to limit us to a few Jesus connections in the Old Testament but give us a framework through which to view all of Scripture.

Q&R&Testimonies:

1. Where have you seen Jesus in Scripture?
2. Where have you seen Jesus in your life?

Where’s Jesus? Slide

Where I see Jesus in Scripture:

- My favorite outdoor activity to watch documentaries about is rock climbing.
- *The Dawn Wall* Netflix documentary
- Melchizedek—**Hebrews 6:19-20** ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
 - Jesus as our Anchor, our Rock, our Foundation

The Lord’s Supper

- Have Andrew and Meredith Shields and Dan and Stephanie Chitwood come up to serve.

PRAY

Time permitting:

1. Prophecy – OT Prophecy Pointing to Jesus

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

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2. Foreshadowing – Jesus is Figuratively Present in the OT

- **Serpent in the Wilderness—John 3:14-15** ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
- **Summarize Numbers 21:4-9** ⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

3. Literal Presence – Jesus is Literally Present in the OT

- **Summarize John 12:37-38** ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”
- **John 12:39-41** ³⁹ Therefore they (the people) could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” ⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.
- **What’s happening in Isaiah 6? Isaiah 6:1-13**—Connection with Isaiah 6 when Isaiah sees the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up with the train of his robe filling the temple with angels calling out, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” The foundations shook. The house was filled with smoke. Isaiah says, “Woe is me! I am lost. My lips are unclean because my eyes have seen the King!
- That’s Jesus!

BONUS: #nextlevelstuff

Awesome story where Jesus is present BOTH figuratively AND literally simultaneously!

- **Summarize Exodus 17:1-4** ¹ All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."
- **Exodus 17:5-7** ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ **Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.**" And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"
 - The rock was struck because of the people's sin and life flowed out.
 - Jesus stands before Moses on the rock taking the judgment that should be directed towards the people of God.
 - Jesus is standing on the rock while the rock is struck.
 - **1 Corinthians 10:1-4** tells us that that Rock was Christ. "For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."
 - The rock points ahead to Jesus as the Rock.
 - Simultaneously, Jesus is standing on the rock, present with the people of God.
 - Jesus is saying, "I'm right here with you. And I'm coming to be the Rock and absorb the wrath of God."
- **Checkout Genesis 22:10-17a** ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you..."
 - Jesus is most likely the angel of the Lord.
 - Think about what Jesus probably looked like when He was transfigured on that mountain. His clothes were dazzling white...like an angel.
 - The angel of the Lord never shows up after Jesus is born.
 - It's probably Him showing up and actively engaging in the Old Testament.
 - He created the earth with the Father. He was eager to engage.
 - Jesus is also the Lamb of God that atones for the sins of the world that the ram in the thicket foreshadows.

New Testament—Gospel Circles—Gospel, Gospel Truths, Gospel Conduct

The Gospels are clearly about Jesus. The New Testament letters are too. Paul always links our behavior to the Gospel, not Old Testament law. We're under the law of Christ. Grace takes us much further than the OT law ever could. Love always issues in action that is rooted in the Gospel.

- **1 Corinthians 2:1-2** ¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

- Gospel = bought with a price
- Gospel Truth = you are not your own; you're the temple of the Holy Spirit
- Gospel Conduct = glorify God in your body

2 Corinthians 8:7-9 ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. ⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

- Gospel = yet for your sake he became poor
 - Jesus is insanely rich! He owns the whole universe. He created everything out of nothing. It's His! He owns all of the stuff!
 - Yet... Yet... for your sake.
 - Read Philippians 2:6-11.
 - **2 Corinthians 8:5** ...and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.
 - **Action Step:** Get gripped by grace! By the Gospel!
- Gospel Truth = so that you by his poverty might become rich
 - The riches we possess in Christ are enough to bring us peace, joy, contentment. We are rich if we are in Christ.
- Gospel Conduct = see that you excel in this act of grace also
 - This act of grace = wealth of generosity

The whole New Testament points straight to Jesus Christ.

The Chopping Block:

Jesus is the interpretive key to all of Scripture.

- Jesus shows up, scares everyone, eats some fish, and reiterates what He taught the guys on the road to Emmaus.
- **Luke 24:44-47** ⁴⁴Then 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." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Parallel Passages to Luke 24:13-35

From Wikipedia:

The Gospel of Mark 16:12–13 has a similar account that describes the appearance of Jesus to two disciples while they were walking in the country, at about the same time in the Gospel narrative, although it does not name the disciples or the destination as Emmaus: "Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

It has also been suggested that the [Ethiopian eunuch](#) story (Acts 8:26–40) is a "much discussed parallel" to the Emmaus narrative, since there are some recognizable similarities between the two. Jan Lambrecht says, "Each event culminates with a ritual, the breaking and distributing of bread at Emmaus and the baptism of the Ethiopian along the road. ... What remains as a common theme in both stories is the necessary hermeneutical connection between the Scriptures and the Jesus event. The Scriptures are to be interpreted in the light of 'the good news of Jesus' (Acts 8) and the Jesus events can only be understood in light of the Scriptures (Lk 24)."

Unnamed Disciple

From Wikipedia:

Many names have been proposed for the disciple who accompanied Cleopas. Among those who have been suggested: Simon/Symeon, according to several documents and manuscripts; Ammaon/Amaon, which may be a spelling error for "Symeon", according to [Saint Ambrose](#); Nathanael, according to [Saint Epiphanius's Panarion](#); Nicodemus, according to the Arabic Apocryphal Gospel of John; [Luke the Evangelist](#), according to the [Book of the Bee](#); [Philip the Deacon](#); [James, brother of Jesus](#); and [Mary](#), the wife (or possibly daughter) of "Cleopas", when he is considered the same person as [Clopas](#).^{[12][13]}

John Gillman, in a [Festschrift](#) to Jan Lambrecht, writes that "Luke's failure to identify Cleophas' companion by either name or gender may well be a strategy of inviting the reader to identify implicitly with that person, and thus to make the journey as Cleophas' companion."

Another story where Jesus is present BOTH figuratively AND literally simultaneously!

Checkout Genesis 22:10-17a ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you..."

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The Angel of the Lord

- <http://christinprophecy.org/articles/the-angel-of-the-lord/>
- **Genesis 16:7-14**
- **Genesis 28:10-22**
- **Genesis 31:11-13**
- **Exodus 3:2-4**
- **Numbers 22:22-38**
- **Judges 2:1-3**
- **Judges 6:11-23**
- **Judges 13:3-22**

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

- Simon Peter needed to be reinstated so Luke goes to great lengths to speak of him.
- Christ is present with us in His Word. The Word is present with us in the Word.

Garland:

- Despair as they left Jerusalem turns to joy as they return to Jerusalem
- "Disputing" (v. 15)
- Jesus interprets Scripture accurately, at least from age twelve on (Luke 2:46-47).
- "The whole narrative of God's dealings with Israel unlocks God's purposes that culminate in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection." –p. 954
- "...only those who desire his company will come to further realization of his identity..." –p. 954
- "Disappearing from sight makes clear that his resurrection does not entail his continuing physical presence. He must enter into his glory, but believers can experience his presence through the study of Scriptures and their fellowship meals that welcome strangers." –p. 956
- Burning hearts is foreshadowing to the coming Holy Spirit.

Graeme Goldsworthy, *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics* (p. 252)

- Jesus says the whole Old Testament, not merely a few selected texts, is about him. Many Christians want to go immediately to consider how the text is about them rather than about Christ.
- Jesus is the one mediator between God and man. He is thus the hermeneutic principle for every word from God.
- Jesus is the reason for the creation and therefore interprets the ultimate significance of every datum (an assumption or premise from which inferences may be drawn) of reality. In other words, every datum can be related to its reason in Christ.
- Jesus alone has merited entrance into his Father's kingdom.
- We enter that kingdom by being in union, through faith, with Jesus.
- We grow in our Christian lives by being conformed more and more to the image of Jesus, not to the image of Abraham or Moses. These latter, and all the heroes of the Bible, only have exemplary (serving as a desirable model) meaning for us because of their respective relationships to Christ. (E.g. IN 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul says, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ.")

- Thus the prime question to put to every text is about how it testifies to Jesus. Only then can we ask how it makes real his rule over us, and makes real his presence with us so that we are conformed more and more to his image.