

Road to Emmaus

by John Walsh

*The narrator visits with the audience,
while the actors portray the entire Day of Resurrection.
The “freeze frame” happens when Jesus suddenly appears and disappears.*

*The narrator comes out on one side of the stage, and Jesus on the other.
Both stay on the stage the entire time. Throughout the drama,
Jesus listens to the narrator when he talks, but doesn't say anything to him.
Still, he communicates with body language and facial expressions.*

Narrator: The day of Resurrection was busy day. And what a day it was! Jesus appears to women in the morning, and to men in the afternoon.

It could be just me, but it seemed like Jesus was having fun that day. He keeps appearing and disappearing, coming and going. (Jesus shrugs as if to indicate, “What can I say?”)

Still, it was a long day. Jesus rose from the dead early Sunday morning, before the sun came up. The first person he appeared to was Mary.

*(Mary is standing near the open tomb crying.
An angel stands inside, and Jesus stands near by.)*

Angel: “Why are you crying?”

Mary: “They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have laid him.”

Narrator: Ah, now she sees Jesus, but thinks he is the gardener.

Mary: “Sir, if you have moved the body of Jesus, please tell me where you have put it, so I can go get it.”

Jesus: *(pause)* “Mary”

Mary: *(falls down and grabs his feet):* “My Master!”

Jesus: “Mary, don't hold me. Go and tell my disciples that you have seen me alive.”

(Mary stands up and runs off.)

Narrator: Later that day, two men started walking home to Emmaus.

Jesus motions the narrator and points to the two women walking across the stage.

Narrator: Oh yeah. I forgot about them.

Jesus steps in front of the women and they fall down and worship him.

Jesus: *(turns and smiles at the narrator like he is having a good time, then says to women)* “Go find my brothers. Tell them I will meet them in Galilee.”

(women get up and run off the stage.)

Narrator: “Now, as I was saying, later that day, two men started walking home to Emmaus.

*(Two men walk on stage talking about the events of the day.
Jesus turns and walk towards them.)*

Jesus: “What are you talking about?”

(FREEZE FRAME, except for Jesus and the narrator)

Narrator: The men don’t recognize him. (He waves a hand in front of their eyes)
Jesus has temporarily made them blind to his true identity. Doesn’t this seem like we serve a God who has an interesting sense of humor?

men: “Are you the only one in the city that doesn’t know that happened over the last few days?”

Jesus *(pauses to smile at narrator, then says to the men):* “What things?”

men: “We are talking about the mighty prophet, Jesus of Nazareth. He spoke the words of God. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel, but three days ago the religious leaders had him crucified.”

“Now we have received some astonishing news. Some women told us they went to the tomb and found the body missing. After that, they said they saw visions of angels and actually saw the Lord alive.”

Jesus *(as they walk across the stage):* “You people are so slow to understand. Why don’t you believe the prophets? They clearly state that Messiah has to suffer before receiving glory.”

Narrator: As they walked, Jesus continued to explain the Scriptures that were about him, starting at the beginning. When they got to Emmaus, he pretends like his is about to go on past the village, but they stopped him. (Jesus smiles at narrator)

men: “It’s too late in the day to continue on.
Please come and spend the night at our house.”

Narrator: Jesus agrees and goes into their home. When the meal is ready ...

Jesus *(taking the bread):* “Father, bless this bread and open their eyes.”

men: Jesus! *(FREEZE FRAME)*

*Jesus stands up while the men are still frozen in place,
smiles at narrator, and walks off.*

men: “He’s gone!” *(they sit back and are quiet a bit. Then one says)* “Our hearts were on fire as he walked with us and explained the Scripture.” *(the other man says)* “Hurry. Let’s go back to Jerusalem and tell the others that we have seen him.”

(Men stand up and rush across the stage where other men come out to meet them.)

First men: “It’s true! The Lord has risen from the dead. He walked with us explaining the Scriptures. *(ha)* We didn’t recognize him until he broke bread at the evening meal.”

(Jesus quietly walks toward the group of men. He looks at the narrator and puts finger to mouth, as if to say “shhh”).

One of the disciples: “Guys, I don’t know what you saw, (pause) but I know what I saw. I watched him die. I know what you are going through. We all want him to be alive, but we have to admit that he is dead.”

(FREEZE FRAME)

Jesus: “Peace be with you.”

(All the men are taken back and astonished)

Narrator (to the audience): “See what I mean?”

One of the disciples: “It is a spirit!”

Jesus: “Here, touch the scars in my hands and feet. A spirit doesn’t have flesh and bone like this.”

(Disciples gather around, touching his hands and side.)

disciple *(almost laughing)*: Lord, it is really you?

Jesus *(very happy)*: “Here, I will give you one another proof that it is me. Do you have something to eat? You know a spirit can’t eat food.”

Narrator walks towards audience as food is brought out, and Jesus and his disciples continue to laugh and fellowship.

Narrator: “Well, that all happened in one day, and, you have to admit, Jesus did seem to be having fun – suddenly appearing and disappearing to so many people.

But after all the agony he suffered ... for us

and being separated from the Father ... for us

and bearing all the sins... for us

who can blame him for being excited ... for us.

Jesus: “Men, *(he lets out a big breath towards them)* Your eyes are now open so you can understand the Scriptures.”

Narrator: “Praise be unto God for his matchless gift. *(looking up)* Thank you for sending us Your Son *(pause)* Jesus.”