

Walking by Faith & You'll Walk with me –  
Loving & Healthy Discipling Relationships

**INTRO** –

Thank Crystal

Her point : WALK BY FAITH

My point: YOU ' LL WALK WITH ME

where better to learn how to have a Loving and Healthy Discipling Relationship than from our Lord Jesus

And today we will look at a passage from the gospel where Jesus WALKED ALONG with two disciples and He showed us by His powerful example his amazing relationship with them.

LUKE 24:13-33

Imagine :

- this was right after the weekend of the crucifixion – probably the darkest moment in Christianity and the faith of these two men.

- if they had remained in Jerusalem for a bit more, they prob would have witnessed the resurrected Christ with the other disciples sooner
- but LEAVING Jerusalem, going to EMMAUS, 7 miles away. why ? I doubt it was to find answers or strengthen their faith. These were discouraged men and the Bible says they were DOWNCAST.

And we will learn together from Jesus' example how He walked with them.  
Divide Jesus' walk with them into 3 parts :

(I) **THE GEAR UP**

means the preparation – what to prepare in a journey

from verse 15

*As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them*

The Lord HIMSELF came to them – Jesus did not send anyone else.

Many disciples were faithless after the seeing the Lord hung helplessly but they remained in Jerusalem but Jesus knew these 2 had taken off ...

To the most faithless – Jesus himself personally reached out. He did not delegate

Jesus CAME UP to them. He did wait for them to come to him. We serve a humble, available God who reaches out to us where we are.

WALKED ALONG with them.

He followed them to Emmaus – he did not block them and say “go back , go back – wrong way!”. He knew they were NOT ready

I call this part the **gear-up** because in imitating Jesus to be a loving discipler , we need to spiritually, emotionally, and mentally prepare before we meet with our discipling partners. Why? because our sinful nature makes it difficult to naturally love. I know I need to be intentional and not expect love to flow naturally along.

Example

In my many years as a leader , at times I am called to disciple someone I am so not prepared for.

I remember when I was barely out of campus, I was told to disciple a mother with 2 young children. The church was very young then mainly singles like me; and she was a very busy, professional working mom single-handedly raising up her children. I was informed that I have to help her with her commitment as she was not coming to midweek regularly and was not part of a bible talk . And I was told she could be rather intimidating.

Needless to say, I was not prepared for that.

I remember going in with the agenda

– how was I going to get her to agree to have weekly dp-time with me?

- to join a Bible talk ?
- what was I going to “teach” her ?
- my leader would ask me what my plans were for helping her to be more committed – what would I say?

These thoughts stressed me out soooo much; I was really insecure about discipling her.

Then I thought “BAG IT!!!” I can’t drag her back to Jerusalem when she is not ready (using Luke 24 term ) let me walk along her TO EMMAUS; get to know , hear her stories, understand her struggles.

Never mind, if she does not have time to have the standard “meet in McDonalds dp time” (which is what we did back then!) - I will go to her and really understand her world.

We had the most amazing spending time venues –

most times in her home ( I get nice homecooked meals), swimming pools during boy swimming lessons, walking her dogs, kindergarten school concert, grocery shopping (hers not mine) .

Believe it or not , before long, dpt with her became my highlight of the week –

Now, it took awhile before I could actually worked on my original agenda but by that time- honestly I had already forgotten about them , because I got to see her as a most amazing individual who had deep fear and reverance for God but going through the

most challenging situation. I had no doubt, with her own relationship with God and as I did my bit as a friend & support, she will come through. We only enjoyed a 2 years discipling relationship but today she is one of my spiritual heroes and we remain best friends.

But I learned so much from that experience and could really appreciate Jesus' example. A discipling relationship is never meant to be TOP-DOWN – Jesus went to meet the disciples where they were. And It may be we have to walk a bit with our disciples even while their destination is still Emmaus.

Some of us here are leaders of small groups, or bigger ministries.

Jesus walked with the weakest of his flock.

- Do the weakest in our ministry get our personal attention or do we delegate?
- Do we go direct to them or do we wait for someone to set up for us so they come to our doorsteps?

If the Lord can personally attend, & go to anyone's level – we can do the same. So let's gear up with the correct mindset when we lead anyone in the Lord.

## (II) **THE JOURNEY**

(vs 17-28)

Reading further, we continue to learn from Jesus as he journeyed with them while they were still along the road to Emmaus

- (i) Jesus took them time to ask them “what are you discussing?”  
He did not rush them –  
Even when they seem offended and looked down on Jesus “Are you so ignorant?”  
Jesus urged them to share more, “ What things?”

Jesus let them rattle on their dashed hopes, disappointments, cynicism – you can really see the range of negative emotions as they spoke to Jesus. But Jesus took the time to listen. Jesus allowed them to share their doubts

- (ii) Jesus challenged their disbelief (v25). He did not allow them go on and on with their cynicism . And he used the Scriptures (vs 27) to teach, rebuke, correct them.

Yes – Jesus was a good listener, He was patient BUT very Lovingly and firmly, He corrected their distorted thinking.

I have seen in my own discipling relationships how I caused harm when I took too long to speak the truth in love to them. I rationalised and made excuses for them even when they were really not obeying the Scriptures – I allowed myself to become sentimental. I have learned that I am far from being a loving discipler if I do not speak the truth to them and that was one area I really had to repent in my earlier years learning to be a good discipler.

And becos by nature, I don't have a particular strong demeanour, I learn to rely on the Scriptures and let God's words stir people's hearts.

Even if you are a particularly good at challenging people, do not use own words, wisdom and experience. Be mindful to let the Word of God move people's hearts.

Fellow disciplers, make it our goal to know our scriptures better and incorporate studying the Scriptures together in our discipling relationships.

So much so that , the 2 men could say (vs 32) “ *were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*”

WOW !! talk about a awesome DP time!!!!

### **(III) THE FINAL DESTINATION**

(vs 28) their hearts were so stirred walking that journey with Jesus. They reached Emmaus – they wanted more of Jesus . And then? JESUS DISAPPEARED from their sight!!!

I am so moved by this!!!

If you have been a good, loving discipler – many times you will find people generally get attached to you and want to be with you BUT there must be a point where we know --- we have to be less and disappear becos listening to us/obeying us is NOT the goal. They can be good disciples to us and embrace what we teach BUT that is never the final destination.

EVEN the Lord Jesus himself made his exit after He knew that their hearts were stirred enough , their faith lifted sufficiently, their hopes rekindled enough to make their OWN journey back to Jerusalem. And I can just imagine what great news await them in Jerusalem – JESUS Has Risen , It is as it was TOLD!!!!

We must watch as leaders to NEVER , EVER draw people to ourselves. Never take pride in how attached people are to you. Shiver and understand something is wrong when someone ONLY does well when you disciple them and NOT with anyone else. REJOICE when, after they leave your discipling relationship, they do EVEN better becos of their Own faith and growth or becos someone else is able to help them with another stage of growth.

That's a LOVING & HEALTHY Discipling Relationship.

Sisters, I hope you have been as inspired studying out this passage as I have been and that learning how to GEAR UP, getting insight into THE JOURNEY, and understanding THE FINAL DESTINATION will really help you with your dp relationships.