



# A Challenging Word

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## THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED (PART TWO\*)

**Text: Luke 24:13-32**

So here HE comes, He dies on the cross for me, and I've used the term a whole bunch but I very rarely actualize it. He actually saved my soul. He saved my spirit instantly, my soul progressively, and one day I'll have a new body. But here's the problem, just like in the garden the choice is mine and God is saying, "Your body is my temple, I want to commune again, **essence to essence**. I want to walk again in the cool of your day and I want to do more for you than just ask how you are doing. I want to fulfill you." Because if I don't pursue this, if I don't follow this, I'm tempted to bite into forbidden fruit again.

See there are five things I desperately need: (1) I need someone to address my fears, (2) I need someone to activate my faith, (3) I need somebody to adjust my focus, (4) I need somebody to allow me to fellowship with them, and (5) I need somebody to accept the fulfilling desire of longing. You say, "Dwight, what do you mean?" There's got to be some passion involved.

In this passage of Scripture, you read the whole thing and get down to 32 and I desperately envy what they said and I say more than that because listen to what they said, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He walked with us and talked with us on the way and opened unto us the Scriptures?" But our response should be better than theirs fellahs, because our response should be not, "did not?" but, "does not our heart burn within us while He's walking with us in the way, while He's opening to us the Scriptures." It's the present active indicative, it's right here, real time, right now. He wants to enjoy the fellowship of His company, our company. He wants this temple to be activated with worship again. He wants us to know that the pursuit of pleasure is not wrong when it's attached to purpose. God created us for a reason and He's saying, "Look, if you're looking for pleasure, it's in my presence. You looking for fulfillment, I got it. But you've got to stop thinking you can feed yourself, otherwise you'll look around and you'll find yourself picking through the garbage again.

Now look around this room. There're fathers in here, there're pastors in here. There are men with heavy responsibilities and I'm asking you a question, "How does your soul look?" Look around at your experience, are you just picking through the garbage? Or are you walking with Him, are you able to commune with Him at the level of your soul? Is there conversation going on on a daily basis where the sweetness of His fellowship is constant.

Now understand something, while God desires that we pursue Him, He is not trying to be evasive. Hear what I'm saying? He's not *agnostos Theos*, the hidden God. He's real, He's there, He's available and He's longing for me to fellowship with Him and I daresay, most of us will die, not having that relationship. I have no plan to die unfulfilled. I have no plan to go further than I've already been. I'm not going back anymore. God wants me to look forward. One of the problems we've always had is that we are judging ourselves based on our past. Let it go! Paul says, "Forgetting the things that are behind I press for the things that are before." Look, you know what, the reason why the rearview mirror is smaller than your windshield is because what's ahead of you is more important than what's behind you. Stop all that cop out garbage and all the things I used to do and my past is so rotten, so what. You are not saved on the basis of what you are, you're saved because He loves you. Simple as that.

And I see the same thing happening across - we lose so much of definition of purpose because there is so much imagery before us. Honestly, how many of you have seen one character as a man on television that you want to emulate? *Silence*. Right. Right. You know what that's saying, that society has marginalized you to a comic figure. Some fellow that's been in touch with his feminine side. God made me a man and I'm happy about it. But I dare say to you, because of that, we are the most attacked entity on the planet. The last thing the world wants, the last thing Satan wants is for me to be a man. Not act as a man but be a man and the definition of who I am God has create in His Word. My hero, my role model, the person I am to emulate is the Lord Jesus Christ. Now that perspective drives me to want to know what does he want from me.

We can have all the right responses but we need some direction - what do You want, why are You trying to get out of me, what are You trying to get me to see? How does my heart respond to you? When I've got this agenda to deal with, if I don't deal with this it will fall apart, if I don't do this my kid is going to lose his mind, if I don't do this my wife won't be happy. And I'm living in a world that has left me no space for me. So what do I do?

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God says, "Let the women have their flowers and their shopping. Let the kids have their youth. You come be with me. Let's commune at a different level. Let's enjoy the fact that we know each other and we're going to spend the rest of eternity together. And let me heal your soul."

Because I've said to God, "I've hurt myself. I've banged my knee. I've got a bad reputation." And this is what He says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, Dwight, repairing the soul. Come on let's repair it, let's clean you up. Let's walk together. Let's take your soul. Let's take all the things you've done in the dark, you didn't want me to see them, I saw them all – hasn't changed the way I love you, and I understand that. And I promise you, I created pleasure for you, and there's nothing greater than Godly pleasure. I created passion for you, passion for you."

"But God, why is it so elusive?"

"It's not that it's so elusive, Dwight, it's just that you can't get it while holding on to something else. Surrender, let go. I cannot give you what I want to give you when you hold on to the things that you think give you significance."

You are not defined by what other men think about you. You are not defined by what your job thinks about you. You are not defined by how big your house is, how nice your car is, by your bottom line bank account. You are defined because your Father says, "Well done." Your Father says, "Yesterday's over, forget about it. Tomorrow's not here yet. How are we dealing with today?" How you doing today Dwight? Remember, it's dawn and dusk. Your Father's asking me, "Here's your purpose Dwight, here's what I want you to do today, this is your daily bread. Do your job."

"What about tomorrow God?"

"Tomorrow is mine, let me worry about tomorrow. I've got today right now.

I've equipped you with all the manna you need. I've given you a brand new mercy to make it through today. When you get down on your knees and we get a chance to commune together quietly and I'll talk to you about the day, I'm not there to condemn, I'm there to console. I'm not there to laugh at you, I'm not there to beat you over the head, I'm saying, 'Son, how did we do?'"

And honestly, from your heart you tell me, 'I didn't do too good Dad.' And I don't say, 'Well, I'm not speaking to you anymore.' I draw the closer to you and I put my arms around your head and your heart. The Bible says, 'He is the glory and the lifter of my head.' Remember when you were a little boy and your father said, 'What's the matter?' You had your head down and you were crying and he'd take his thumb and lift you up and you'd look into his eyes and you saw all the power, all the pride, all the significance of what you want to be like. And that's what He is, He's my glory and the lifter of my head.

When you went to the well, was it dry? When you sat down to eat at His table was there anything there? I'm not just talking about having a great Bible study, while that's important, I'm not talking about having a great prayer time, I'm talking about have we addressed who I am? Have we addressed why I am here? Have we addressed the real issue of my soul?

Let me show you something, turn in your Bibles to Acts 17:22-28. To address the issues and needs of my soul, He still demands I pursue Him. HE still demands that I run after Him, He still demands that I take the initial step. Why? Because He has done everything possible so that I can do this. Before in the OT, it was the Holy of Holies and only the priests could go in and there was a curtain dividing us and we couldn't go in and God said, 'Stay out or I'll kill you.' But on the cross the veil was rent and God says, 'COME IN! Come in. Don't rush out .' He demands pursuit, that's why Heb. 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him. For He who comes to God must believe that He is and rewards of them that diligently seek Him."

written by Dwight Knight -Look for the conclusion of "The Road Less Traveled" in the next issue.

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## Up Coming Events

**Nov. 28-30, 2008 Believers Conference Norcross, GA**  
**March 6-8, 2009 Renew: Body, Mind & Spirit Women's Retreat Savannah GA**  
**\*April 17-19, 2009 Journey: Summit on Christian Manhood**  
**Oct. 16-18, 2009 Connection: Marriage Conference**

\*Note change in date

For more information go to [www.challenge-ministries.org](http://www.challenge-ministries.org)