



Bible Drama Scripts
presents

EMMAUS ROAD STRANGER

By Patricia Souder

SYNOPSIS: Cleopas and his companion discuss their encounter with the stranger who joined them as they walked back to Emmaus following Jesus' crucifixion. Crushed by Jesus' unjust execution and bewildered by the morning's report that his body was missing, they failed to recognize who the stranger was until they invited him to eat with them. Just as they realized who he was, he disappeared. Amazed, they raced back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples. Jesus appeared again. Convinced that Jesus is not only alive but also the promised Messiah, they ask themselves thought-provoking questions we all need to ask.

SETTING: Emmaus Road. Could be Biblical or contemporary.

CHARACTERS: Cleopas and "Other Traveler," an unidentified companion.

PERFORMANCE TIME: Approximately 5 minutes.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Characters say lines together when marked with a star.

TOPICS: Jesus' resurrection. Faith. Witnessing.

PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES: Easter and post-Easter worship and special events. Small groups. High school and college groups. Camps and conferences. Vacation Bible School. Evangelistic outreaches.

BIBLE REFERENCES: Luke 24: 1-49

PROPS: None needed. Could use walking stick, plate with matzo.

EMMAUS ROAD STRANGER

CLEOPAS

We headed back to Emmaus, heads down and hearts heavy, as we tried to make sense of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

And what had happened to his body? Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb this morning and it was empty!

(Looks puzzled.) We weren't that far from Jerusalem. How could he not know about those terrible events?

We walked together . . .

For seven miles.

We had no idea who he was or where he'd come from.

OTHER TRAVELER

How could our religious leaders insist that he be executed when he'd healed and helped so many?

We were so distressed by the events of the last few days that we never even noticed when a stranger slid into step beside us. "Why are you so upset?" he asked.

We told him what we knew. Then we listened while he explained long passages of Scripture to us.

And talked together . . .

★ For seven miles.

★ We had no idea who he was or where he'd come from.

CLEOPASOTHER TRAVELER

We were weary . . .

So we almost said “Shalom” and let him go.
(Shakes head sadly.)

And it was getting late . . .

So we invited him in.

I pulled up an extra chair. *(Pulls up
imaginary chair.)*

As we sat down to eat, I thought:

No one ever taught Torah . . .

Like he did.

Why, my heart burned within me!

And yet . . .

Until he took the matzo . . .

Broke it . . .

Then, suddenly . . . *(Look at each other
with awe)* we both knew . . .

It was Jesus!

“Lord!” we cried.

We had very little food in the house because
we’d whisked out every bit of leaven before
we left for Passover.

★ So we almost said “Shalom” and let him go.
★ *(Shakes head sadly.)*

But there was something special about
him . . .

★ So we invited him in.
(Searches imaginary shelves.)

And I found a little leftover matzo and some
dried fish . . .

★ As we sat down to eat, I thought:

Or unraveled prophecy . . .

★ Like he did.

★ Why, my heart burned within me!

We still had no idea who he was . . .

Gave thanks . . .

And handed it to us.

★ Then, suddenly . . . *(Look at each other with
awe)* we both knew . . .

★ It was Jesus!

★ “Lord!” we cried.

CLEOPASOTHER TRAVELER

Just like that!

We looked at each other . . .

And headed back to Jerusalem.

When we found the disciples, they told us
Jesus was alive.

But we never finished because suddenly, out
of nowhere, a stranger stood among us and
said, "Peace be with you."

"Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Who do
you think I am? Look at my hands and feet.
(*Opens hands and shows palms.*)
Touch me so you know I'm not a ghost."

We knew it was Jesus, the same stranger who
met us on the Emmaus Road!

Our hearts pounded wildly as he quoted
passages from Moses, Isaiah, and the Psalms.

He showed us that Scripture said the Messiah
would suffer and die in our place . . .

But he disappeared!

Gone like a vapor!

Grabbed our tunics . . .

★ And headed back to Jerusalem.

"Yes, we know!" we said and started telling
our story.

Peace? (*Looks puzzled.*) We were spooked!

Then he asked for something to eat. And as
soon as he took a bite of the broiled fish . . .

★ We knew it was Jesus, the same stranger who

★ met us on the Emmaus Road!

As he spoke, the fog that clouded our
understanding lifted, and we could see!

Just like the Passover Lamb.

CLEOPASOTHER TRAVELER

And that he would rise from the dead to show that God had accepted his sacrifice.

He'd fulfilled every prophecy.

Jesus was not only alive:

He was also the promised Messiah!

We'd been so filled with our own preconceived ideas of political deliverance that we almost missed God's grand plan of redemption! *(Shakes head in wonder.)*

What if we hadn't invited him in?

What if we're afraid to tell others that we've seen Jesus?

How will they know?

And how will we answer the Emmaus Road Stranger when we meet him again someday?

Just as Jesus had done.

That could mean only one thing:

- ★ Jesus was not only alive:
- ★ He was also the promised Messiah!

We had to ask ourselves some hard questions:

What if we hadn't run back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples?

How will they know Jesus is alive and wants to be invited into their lives?

How *will* they know?

- ★ And how will we answer the Emmaus Road
- ★ Stranger when we meet him again someday?

Luke 24: 13-49

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