

INTRODUCTION - the story provides an illustration of the Christian life

1. THEY HAD JESUS WITH THEM AT THE START OF THE JOURNEY

Our spiritual journey begins by having Jesus with us.

It begins with no other: (Acts 4:12) "... none other name ... whereby we must be saved"
(John 14:6; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:26-27)

We may have Jesus with us in our daily walk: (Mtt. 28:19-20) "... I am with you always ..."

We may have Jesus with us at the end of the way: (Rev. 14:13; Psalm 23:4)

We may have Jesus for eternity: (1 Thess. 4:17) "so shall we ever be with the Lord"

2. THEY SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM JESUS; THEY "LOST" JESUS

Joseph and Mary took their journey home without Jesus.

Some ways we may continue our spiritual journey without Jesus:

(John 6:60) "hard saying" (v66) "walked no more with him"
(Acts 20:29-30) "speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them"
(1 Tim. 4:1) "some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to ..."
(2 Tim. 4:10) "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world"
(Heb. 3:12-13) "... and evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God ..."

3. THEY LOOKED FOR JESUS AMONG FELLOW TRAVELERS

Realizing their sad situation, wanting to find Jesus, (v45) "they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him."

That's repentance.

We sing: "Though none go with me, I still will follow"

4. THEY FOUND JESUS

(v46) "after 3 days they found him in the temple" - right where they left him!
(Rev. 2:5) "remember from where you fell, repent, and do the first works"
Start doing what you stopped doing. (see Isaiah 55:6-7)

5. THEY WERE HAPPY WHEN THEY FOUND JESUS

CLOSE - Christian, if you have left Jesus, there is a call for your return.