



## **TENTH LAY TALK**

### **TALK #15 FOURTH DAY**

#### **Overview of All Talks**

One message is delivered during The Walk to Emmaus 72-hour experience; it is communicated throughout the music, meals, clergy meditations, attitudes and actions of the team members, and the talks. You have been selected to deliver one of the 15 talks. In reality, you will deliver 1/15 of the Emmaus talk—one message, fifteen presenters.

Prepare your talk using the outlines provided. In general, 2/3 of your presentation will come from the outlines; the remaining 1/3 will come from your original insights and personal experience.

The talks are sequenced in a defined order; each builds on the next to provide pilgrims with the complete message of Emmaus. Do not try to cover more than your assigned topic. The expanded outline intends to provide a solid understanding of the material from which your talk will be developed. The abbreviated outline helps you see the progression of the main points. *Neither outline is a script*; you will need to add personal examples to give life to the content and make it real to the hearers. Use visual aids to help convey the main points.

The Holy Spirit, as well as feedback from the team after your talk preview, will provide additional guidance for your unique presentation of this talk. Once you incorporate the suggestions offered after your preview, your presentation no longer belongs just to you but to the team God is forming to deliver the Emmaus message.

*This presentation is allotted a maximum of 20 to 25 minutes.* Please honor the time limit out of a spirit of cooperation, charity, good stewardship of time, and consideration for the hearers.

#### **Overview for Speaker**

This talk wraps up the 72-hour Emmaus event. However, be cautious. You do not have to summarize everything that has been said. Your purpose is to send the pilgrims into their Fourth Day with enthusiasm and proper perspective on what these three days have been about.

The name of the talk comes from the fact that the pilgrims have spent three days together experiencing the Emmaus Walk. Now they are going to face their Fourth Day. In fact, the rest of their lives will be a succession of Fourth Days.

The major theme of the talk continues the idea of perseverance. Pilgrims will experience trials, disappointments, long days of questioning, but they must remember: Christ and I are a

majority. The BODY OF CHRIST talk stressed teamwork. The CHRISTIAN ACTION talk developed a concept of ministry, and the CHANGING OUR WORLD talk projected a field for mission.

FOURTH DAY finalizes the resolve and commitment to be Christ in the world for others,

**This talk is scheduled for Sunday at 2:30 p.m.**

# Expanded Outline: FOURTH DAY

## **Begin by leading the Prayer to the Holy Spirit:**

*Please turn to page 48 in your Worshipbook and join me in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.*

## **Opening Story (1–2 minutes)**

Choose a story or experience from your own life that is brief, personal, and directly related to the main point of this talk. If you cannot think of an appropriate introduction, consult with the Lay Director or a Spiritual Director for assistance. A good introduction will engage the hearts, minds, and attention of pilgrims and move them into the theme of this talk. For example, you might do the following:

Option 1: Share a specific way your life has changed because of your Fourth Day experience. Feel free to name the fears or obstacles that had to be overcome as you returned to your home, church, and work. If possible, make a specific comment about the importance of communicating with your pastor with humility and honesty.

Option 2: Share the life story of someone else that illustrates the main theme of the talk.

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and the title of this talk is FOURTH DAY.**

## **I. Introduction**

For the past three days you have been on the receiving end of the kind of love the body of Christ is called to share, through agape and the support of the Emmaus community. Now that these three days are drawing to a close, you are about to embark on your Fourth Day—a term that refers to every day hereafter for the rest of your life. These three days have had only one purpose: to prepare you for your Fourth Day, your walk with the Lord every day from now on.

## **II. You Have a Mission**

- A. The purpose of the 72-hour Emmaus event is not just to have a good time or to benefit you but to strengthen the Christian community and develop Christian disciples who will give their lives to sharing Christ.
  1. Moses' experience with the burning bush was a momentous occasion. But we would never have known about that experience except for what he did afterward—a pilgrimage that lasted another forty years.

2. Jonah's three-day experience in the belly of a whale was incredible and changed his life. But his experience was recorded in the Bible because of what he did with the rest of his life afterward. Without the fourth day, his three-day experience would have been forgotten.
  3. You have also encountered God in a unique way this weekend. The experiences of these three days may change the history of the world—or may fade into obscurity and insignificance. It all depends, not on what has happened these three days, but on what you do with it during your Fourth Day.
- B. Life in grace is not a destination. It is a journey for the sake of the world. Life in grace is not a satisfactory lifestyle to be achieved. It is a pilgrimage of love that never ends in this life.
1. The burning bush experience did not occur primarily for Moses' benefit. It was for all of the people who were going to come within his circle of influence—a group whose identity God knew even beforehand.
  2. Jonah's experience was not primarily for Jonah's benefit. It was for the benefit of his family, his friends, and more than 120,000 people in Nineveh.
  3. This 72-hour Emmaus event is not primarily for you. It is for your family, your church, your friends, and many people you don't know yet.
  4. The purpose of The Walk to Emmaus is to inspire and equip you to be a disciple whose heart burns with the love of God, who will bring new vision to your church, and who will return with renewed commitment to offer Christ to the world in which you live.
- C. As a result of your 72-hour Emmaus event, the world may look different. But remember, your job, the church, your friends, and your social environment have not changed. Only you have changed.
1. Realize that most people will not be interested in your experience here.
  2. Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold, but do not try to squeeze your friends into your mold either.
  3. Bear witness to Christ and your renewed zeal for a life in grace through the quality of your walk, not just the quantity of your talk. Seek ways to serve Christ through your church and to employ your energies for love. Exude the joy of the Lord and bring life to the dullness around you.

### III. Two Great Dangers

The Fourth Day brings with it two great dangers: overconfidence and lack of confidence.

#### A. *Danger #1: Believing you are someone special.*

It would be a pity if, because of having attended a 72-hour Emmaus event, a participant came to think that he or she was somebody special, indispensable, or better than someone else.

1. This Walk to Emmaus may make us better than we were, but it never makes us better than someone else.
2. You are not the first person to find God, meet Jesus, or experience the Holy Spirit. The Emmaus Walk is not the only way or even the main way to do this. Emmaus pilgrims are not a special breed of persons or a fraternity/sorority; we are Christians, and we are the church.
3. Be aware that the Emmaus Walk is not the only source of spiritual renewal. If you have experienced God's grace in a new way this weekend, remember that you have only discovered what millions have been discovering for two thousand years—mostly without attending Emmaus Walks.
4. There is no record that Moses ever talked to others about the burning bush, or that Jonah ever talked of his three-day experience in the belly of the whale. Both Moses and Jonah were too busy living in grace to exalt their past experiences.

#### B. *Danger #2: Believing you are nobody.*

It would be even more pitiable if, in our first clash with unredeemed reality or with an indifferent church, we were to become frustrated and give up, believing that we can do nothing to help cure the ills of humanity.

1. It took eighty years for God to get Moses' attention. God went to a lot of trouble to get Jonah's attention. Likewise, God has been patient and waited far too long in getting our attention.
2. God has an important part for you to play in the unfolding of the divine agenda. You have inside you the power of the Holy Spirit—resurrection power. With this power you can help bring life in the place of death.
3. Don't try to take on the whole world at once. Remember the progression of the CHANGING OUR WORLD talk: start with yourself, then others, and finally the community and world.

- C. Remember, you have an essential role to play. You are called to be the leaven in the dough, the salt of the earth, the light in darkness (Matt. 13:33; 5:13-16). The way you fulfill this role is to:
1. *Stay in touch with Christ.* Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Acts of piety, study, and action are means by which Jesus remains a part of our lives. A life of grace involves constant contact with Christ.
  2. *Stay in touch with friends who share your priority.* A coal cannot burn long in isolation from the rest, but it burns long and brightly in the company of other burning embers.
  3. *Stay in touch with people whom God has given you to influence.* Grace is not given for you to store up but rather for you to share with others. Unless you allow God's love to flow through you to others, it will cease to flow through you at all.

#### IV. Equipment for the Journey

- A. *A clear concept of your priority*—Keep your focus on Christ. Christ is our model; we want to walk in his path. In order to love and serve Christ, we must know him. Christ is indeed our priority when we offer him devoted hearts, determined wills, humble strength, and generous lives.
- B. *A clear concept of the task*—The world needs change. Change happens when Christians put forth the effort to change the world. God has given us the Holy Spirit; we must allow ourselves to be used. Of course, we will encounter resistance. We must be ready to meet that resistance with perseverance and love.
1. Some persons will not like the Emmaus movement.
  2. Some do not like aggressive Christians.
  3. Some do not like Christians at all!
  4. Your church may not be as spiritually alive as you would like it to be. Your job is not to force change on individuals or your congregation but to love people as they are and to present an authentic witness. The Holy Spirit's job is to convince and to change.
- C. *A clear concept of people*—Not everyone has the same capabilities. All of us can and must do something. Everyone has responsibility, but not all will feel that responsibility or exercise it in the same way. God's gifts of grace vary in each person.
- D. *A clear concept of holiness*—We must not lose the true concept of holiness. Becoming holy does not destroy or take away; rather, it expands life to its fullest.

1. Holiness requires that we use all our talents to the utmost for Christ's kingdom on earth. It means remembering that we are spiritual beings who are related to an eternal God.
2. Maintain a consciousness of your life in grace and destiny in Christ. Doing this will provide you with joy and assurance.
3. Trust that God has given you everything you need to live a truly holy life and to be a living reminder of Jesus Christ. Through your knowledge of Jesus Christ and your openness to be a channel of God's Spirit, you will come to share the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3-4) while radiating the love of Christ all around you.

*[Make a personal statement about your Fourth Day experience.]*

May the Lord be with you in your Fourth Day.

**De Colores!**

# Abbreviated Outline: FOURTH DAY

**Begin by leading the Prayer to the Holy Spirit:**

*Please turn to page 48 in your Worshipbook and join me in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.*

**Opening Story (1-2 minutes)**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and the title of this talk is FOURTH DAY.**

## **I. Introduction**

Now that these three days are drawing to a close, you are about to embark on your Fourth Day—a term that refers to every day hereafter for the rest of your life. The purpose of these three days has been to prepare you for your Fourth Day.

## **II. You Have a Mission**

- A. The purpose of the 72-hour Emmaus event is not just to have a good time or to benefit you but to strengthen the Christian community and develop disciples who will dedicate their lives to sharing Christ. The value of these three days for you and for the world depends not on what has happened during these three days but on how you apply what you have learned during your Fourth Day.
- B. Life in grace is not a destination but a journey for the sake of the world. Life in grace is not a lifestyle to be achieved but a pilgrimage of love that never ends in this life. This Emmaus Walk is not primarily for you but for your family, your church, your friends, and all who will come within your sphere of influence.
- C. The world may look different, but only you have changed. Bear witness to Christ through the quality of your walk, not the quantity of your talk.

## **III. Two Great Dangers**

- A. *Danger #1: Believing you are someone special.* This 72-hour Emmaus event may make us better than we were, but it never makes us better than someone else. Emmaus pilgrims are not a special breed or fraternity/sorority; we are Christians, and we are the church.
- B. *Danger #2: Believing you are nobody.* Don't become frustrated with an indifferent church or world, believing you can do nothing. Jonah was one person who challenged



a city of people and all repented (Jonah 3:1-10). God has an important part for you to play. You have inside you the power of the Holy Spirit—resurrection power.

C. You are called to be the leaven in the dough, the salt of the world, the light in darkness (Matt. 13:33; 5:13-16). The way you fulfill this role is to:

1. stay in touch with Christ;
2. stay in touch with friends who share your priority; and
3. stay in touch with people whom God has given you to influence.

#### **IV. Equipment for the Journey**

- A. A clear concept of your priority
- B. A clear concept of the task
- C. A clear concept of people
- D. A clear concept of holiness

#### **V. Conclusion**

*[Make a personal statement about your Fourth Day experience.]*

May God be with you in your Fourth Day.

**De Colores!**