



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.

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

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

OTHER TRAVELER: 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.

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

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

CLEOPAS: We walked together . . .

OTHER TRAVELER: And talked together . . .

BOTH: For seven miles. We had no idea who he was or where he'd come from.

CLEOPAS: We were weary . . .

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

BOTH: So we almost said "Shalom" and let him go. (*Shake heads sadly.*)

OTHER TRAVELER: But there was something special about him . . .

CLEOPAS: And it was getting late . . .

BOTH: So we invited him in.

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

OTHER TRAVELER: (*Searches imaginary shelves.*) And I found a little leftover matzo and some dried fish . . .

BOTH: As we sat down to eat, I thought . . .

CLEOPAS: No one ever taught Torah . . .

OTHER TRAVELER: Or unraveled prophecy . . .

BOTH: Like he did. Why, my heart burned within me!

CLEOPAS: And yet . . .

OTHER TRAVELER: We still had no idea who he was . . .

CLEOPAS: Until he took the matzo . . .

OTHER TRAVELER: Gave thanks . . .

CLEOPAS: Broke it . . .

OTHER TRAVELER: And handed it to us.

BOTH: Then, suddenly . . . (*Look at each other with awe*) we both knew . . . It was Jesus!
“Lord!” we cried.

OTHER TRAVELER: But he disappeared!

CLEOPAS: Just like that!

OTHER TRAVELER: Gone like a vapor!

CLEOPAS: We looked at each other . . .

OTHER TRAVELER: Grabbed our tunics . . .

BOTH: And headed back to Jerusalem.

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

OTHER TRAVELER: “Yes, we know!” we said and started telling our story.

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

OTHER TRAVELER: Peace? (*Looks puzzled*) We were spooked!

CLEOPAS: “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.”

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER TRAVELER: Just like the Passover Lamb.

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

OTHER TRAVELER: Just as Jesus had done.

CLEOPAS: He'd fulfilled every prophecy.

OTHER TRAVELER: That could mean only one thing:

BOTH: Jesus was not only alive—He was also the promised Messiah!

CLEOPAS: 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.)

OTHER TRAVELER: We had to ask ourselves some hard questions:

CLEOPAS: What if we hadn't invited him in?

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

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

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

CLEOPAS: How will they know?

OTHER TRAVELER: How *will* they know?

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

Luke 24:13-49

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