

Okay, so the reading for today's scripture. It's about two men walking along the street. And they're going on this street, and they're apparently very loud. But what they're trying to figure out is that they're sad, and they're trying to understand why they're sad. So what they do is they start talking.

So they're trying to understand why they're sad. And as they're walking on this road, they decide that they come upon a stranger. They're going to talk to him. So they're talking to the stranger, and they're telling them why they're sad. And why they're sad is that they think that they can't find God. They think they've lost him. And the stranger is talking to him, and he's trying to figure out why do you think that's so. If you've heard that he's here, then it's going to be okay?

Well, I was talking with a friend of mine last week, and he felt that way. He was telling me how sad he was. He felt that he couldn't find God. He'd been looking for him all this time, and he couldn't find. And I asked my friend if he'd heard of a poem called Footprints in the Sand. Have you heard of this poem?

So, while they were going through this, I found the poem I'm going to read it to everybody today. So, the poem goes like this. One night, I dreamed a dream. As I was walking along the beach with my Lord across the dark sky, flash scenes of my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me, and one belonging to my Lord. After the last scene of my life flash before me, I look back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only one set of footprints. This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it. Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, you'll walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the saddest, the most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I didn't understand why when I needed you most, you would leave me. He whispered. My precious child. I love you and will never leave you never, ever. During your trials and worst testings, when you saw only one set of footprints. It was then that I carried you.

That makes sense. Yeah, so even though he couldn't see Jesus during that time, he was always there with him. And that's why I want you guys. Remember, sometimes it gets really hard. Life gets really hard, and things don't go the way we plan on them, too. But it's good to remember that God will always be there with you.

So my friend was having a lot of difficulties. He had been going around talking to everyone, and he couldn't understand why so many bad things were happening to him. And he felt like God had left him. He felt God, had just totally abandoned him. And I asked him about that poem and he said that poem doesn't apply to me. And I asked him why it doesn't it apply to you? And he said, well it doesn't apply to me because I'm not dead. Like, but does it matter? Do you have to wait until the end to find out what's going on now?

We have those little moments in time. Those brief little moments where it's quiet, and we think that we're alone, We think that we're lost. We think that there's nobody there

for us. Those are the times you can hear God the most. On the gloomy days when it's real quiet. When this thunderstorm stops, you can look outside, and you can see the rainbow. You can see that reminder that he's there for us.

The covenant that he made With Noah to never forget us, to never turn his face away from us again. That's what happened in today's reading that Ron didn't get to do, And I know he's grateful because it's a long one.

Well, in this story of Luke, Luke is talking about those moments where we feel that we're lost, where we feel like we are alone. That God is nowhere near us, but really, he's right there. We just don't always see him. You know, the stranger has come to them and he's blinded, or they're blinded to who he is. They don't recognize him.

It says while we were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, what are you discussing with each other while you walk along? They stood still looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him. Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem, who does not know the things that have taken place in these days? So they're thinking about everything that just happened. They're thinking about the fact that Jesus has died. It goes farther into the reading, and they believe that he was supposed to have been the Messiah. They believe that he was supposed to be the one that would be risen and save them, but they can't see him. This is the person that they believe in the most, and they can't see them because they're blinded by their own grief. Jesus is there with them. He's being a part of them, and then, finally, when they're eating, they realize that he was with them the whole time.

We all have those moments. We have those moments in life where it seems like everything is falling apart. Everything is crashing and crumbling around us, so we don't know what to do. And we don't understand why God isn't there. God is still there. We just have a hard time seeing him. We have to find that thing that reminds us that he's with us. We see strangers, and all of a sudden, they're saying good things to us. You know, they tell us a joke because they see that we're sad. They offer to help us open a door or hold an umbrella or anything like that. And we don't understand why? Well, God is working through them. When we have struggles in our lives, and we don't know who to talk to because we feel like we're such a burden on everybody. We're not; we really aren't. God has put a number of people in our lives, so we recognize that we aren't alone. So, we recognize that he is sharing his love through them. God helps us in so many ways that we don't always see and understand what's happening around us. It just takes a moment, a simple little thing. It can completely change our vision. So even though this all this time, we felt that we were alone, he's still there with us. It's just a little thing that reminds us of that.