

“Are You On The Road To Emmaus?”

On a recent evening, I was praying for lost loved ones and friends, and lately, as part of my prayers, I have asked for them to have a “road to Damascus” encounter with Jesus just like Saul did, an encounter that would knock them off of their foundation of self-sufficiency, and bring them to their knees in brokenness and repentance. This particular night, for some reason I thought about the two men on the road to Emmaus.

Now I know that the Bible says they were kept from recognizing Him, but I’d like to take license with this account to explain what I sensed the Lord saying. I’m sure we all know a number of people who say they are Christians, talk freely about the Lord, quote scriptures, and might even go to church, but you can tell by their lifestyle there is no real fruit in their lives, indicating a lack of them having had a transformational encounter with the Living Christ. In other words - they’re unsaved.

In Matthew 7: 19-23, Jesus said: *“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’* (NIV) That might sound confusing, but...

The Greek word used for know is “*ginosko*,” which is the same word used to describe intimacy between a man and a woman. When we are born again, when we surrender to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, it is a spiritually intimate interaction between us and Jesus, and the result of that union is the “birth” if you will, of the Holy Spirit within us - we know Jesus, and Jesus KNOWS us!

I went to a mainline denominational church until I was 18. When I was around 12 or 13, I went through a catechism class and when we were finished our class stood before the congregation and recited the Nicene Creed which is similar to the “sinners prayer,” and we became members of the church. At NO time did I ever hear the words “born again” or “saved,” and had I died the next day, I would have stood before the Lord on Judgement Day and He would have said *“Depart from Me, I never knew you,”* because I said the right words with my mouth, but not from my heart!

You might be a very good person. You might do a lot of good deeds for others. You might go to church every Sunday and pray every day, but if you have not had that intimate encounter with Jesus, He DOES NOT KNOW you, and you might be on the road to Emmaus and destined to hell on Judgement Day! In John 3:3, Jesus said: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (NKJV) The choice is yours! Amen!