

TENTH LAY TALK

TALK #15

FOURTH DAY

Overview of All Talks

The Walk to Emmaus 72-hour experience delivers one message that is communicated through the music, meals, clergy meditations, attitudes and actions of the team members, and the talks. You will deliver one of the fifteen talks. In reality, you will deliver one-fifteenth of the Emmaus talk—one message with fifteen presenters.

Prepare your talk using the outlines provided. As a good general rule, two-thirds of the talk will come from the outline and one-third would be the speaker's original insights and illustrations.

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 twenty to twenty-five minutes.

Overview for Speaker

This talk wraps up the 72-hour Emmaus event. 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 with 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 leave to face their Fourth Day; the rest of their lives becomes 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.

Videos and recorded songs should not be part of the talk. Any projection during the talk should be kept simple.

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

EXPANDED OUTLINE

FOURTH DAY

Lead the Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Please turn to page 48 in your Worship Booklet and join me in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Opening Story (1–2 minutes)

Choose a brief, personal story or experience that relates to the main point of this talk. If you cannot think of an appropriate introduction, consult the Lay Director or 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—through agape and the support of the Emmaus community—you have been on the receiving end of the kind of love God calls the body of Christ to share. Now that these three days are drawing to a close, you will 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 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 his actions afterward—a pilgrimage that lasted another forty years.
 2. Jonah's three-day experience in the belly of a whale changed his life. But his experience was recorded in the Bible because of what he did with the rest of his

life after that event. 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 on what you do with it 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 satisfactory lifestyle we achieve but a pilgrimage of love that never ends in this life.
1. The burning bush experience did not occur for Moses' benefit. It served all the people who would come within his circle of influence—a group whose identity God knew beforehand.
 2. Jonah's experience largely benefited his family, 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 express little interest 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 others.

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. The Emmaus Walk is not the only source of spiritual renewal. If you have experienced God's grace in a new way this weekend. What you have discovered this weekend is what millions have been discovering for two thousand years—mostly without attending Emmaus Walks.
4. Nothing in the Bible records that Moses talked to others about the burning bush or that Jonah 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 your first clash with unredeemed reality or with an indifferent church, you become frustrated and give up, believing that you can do nothing to help cure the ills of humanity.

1. It took a lengthy conversation for God to convince Moses to lead the Hebrew people to freedom. God went to a lot of trouble to get Jonah's attention. Likewise, God has been patient and waited far too long to get our attention.
2. God has a meaningful part for you to play in the unfolding of the divine agenda. Within you resides the power of the Holy Spirit—resurrection power. With this power you can help bring life to places 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. (See Matthew 13:33; 5:13-16). You fulfill this role in the following ways:

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 integrates 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.* God gives grace to share with others, not store up for yourself.

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. To love and serve Christ, we must know him. Christ becomes 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 choose to allow ourselves to be used. Of course, we will encounter resistance. We ready ourselves 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. You do not force change on individuals or your congregation; you love people as they are and present an authentic witness. The Holy Spirit will convince and change.
- C. *A clear concept of people*—Not everyone has the same capabilities. All of us can 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 maintain the true concept of holiness. Becoming holy does not destroy or take away; it expands life to its fullest.
 - A. Use your talents to the utmost for Christ's reign on earth. You remember that you are a spiritual being who relates to an eternal God.
 - B. Maintain a consciousness of your life in grace and destiny in Christ. Doing this will provide you with joy and assurance.
 - C. Trust that God has given you everything you need to live a truly holy life and serve as 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 (see 2 Peter 1:3-4), while radiating the love of Christ to all around you.

V. Conclusion

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

May the Lord be with you in your Fourth Day.

De Colores!

ABBREVIATED OUTLINE

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2. *A clear concept of the task*
3. *A clear concept of people*
4. *A clear concept of holiness*

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