

**"WALK THIS WAY"**  
**Date:** December 12, 2021  
**Speaker:** Joe Borelis



**I'm Joe, and my family and I are so excited to be a part of Kessid. We have felt so incredibly welcomed and cared for...**

- Along with being excited about being a part of the Kessid family, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue in this series, "From Now to Forever." When Danny first launched the series, I was so excited about this thought of how to make minutes into moments. (Christmas is 1 day a year... How do we not lose 364...)?
- **Thought:** This led the team to this idea of Intentionality, literally meaning the quality of doing things with "purpose."
- I am NOT the expert on this, I have a truckload full of wasted days in my rearview mirror, but I am the PRODUCT of people who are incredibly intentional. To show you what I mean, let me explain a bit of my story...

**This scenario created a narrative in my heart that I believed, that I was unwanted and unloved. This became the dominant narrative of my life.**

- Through a series of coincidences... (which in my opinion do not exist), I ended up 5 houses down from a 6ft 2in Canadian man and his family. This man, Rick, lived his life on purpose. This man and his wife, Pam, took walks every day, and when they walked, they would never just walk past me. They always captured the moment to pump this kid's flat basketball, he and his wife would bring out desserts, and honestly not waste the opportunity to care for this unwanted kid.
- How I became a Christian : I was getting into trouble and, long story short, I ended up being in a church where THIS man was the lead pastor. I went on a missions' trip... I encountered Jesus.
- This is why I adore and feel called to youth ministry, because at the end of the day, we get to enter into the life of students who are...
- Rick was not missing the moment to live on purpose. He understood that God put me on the street while he walked, and he did not miss it. But this obviously doesn't originate with Rick... Rick understood it from the life of Jesus. To show you what I mean...

**I want to show you how Jesus lived this out in the Emmaus Road narrative in Luke 24 beginning in verse 13 (if you have your Bible turn there with me).**

- Just some context: Jesus has been crucified, which upended the hopes and expectations of His followers. Just the narrative before this, He has risen, and appeared to the woman at the tomb.

- Then we get this narrative; beginning in verse 13...

(Vs) Luke 24:13 (ESV) – *That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.*

- These two – one we know who it is, and one we do not – are walking to Emmaus, a small village that we do not know exactly where it is anymore, but we know this was about a two hour walk. They're talking about this crazy weekend they just went through processing it, and while they are walking look at what happens.

(Vs) Luke 24:15-16 (ESV) – *While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.*

- So, in the middle of this walk, this strange person shows up. We know it's Jesus, but these two do not. I think it's appropriate to ask WHY.
- Their experience was more important than having the correct answer. Notice, the phrase, JESUS **DREW NEAR**. This was more important to these two at this moment. Jesus draws near and walks with them.

(Vs) Luke 24:17-19 (ESV) – *And He said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?"*

- Notice here, Jesus could have easily revealed Himself... He doesn't. Jesus could have immediately taught them, He doesn't.... Instead, He asks questions and listens. Along with drawing near, **HE Asks QUESTIONS about THEM**. He listens. He allows space for their processing. By the way, Jesus never asks a question He does not know the answer to. Cleopas, steps in to process this trauma with Jesus.

(Vs) Luke 24:20-24 – *And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."*

- Let's enter the emotion of Cleopas and his friend. Their hopes have been dashed, and honestly in the human experience, there's nothing that hurts worse than crushed expectations or dashed, deferred hopes. These two have placed all their hopes into Jesus, and now it feels like it's dissolved like sand in their hands. It's over.

- Notice that **Jesus just walks and listens!!!!** This interaction is not an accident, Jesus is intentional with Cleopas and his friend. This is my favorite part of youth ministry. It's grabbing coffee and walking with a student while they process a breakup, a parent's divorce, their insecurity, and you get to listen. But then a door opens, and that's what happens next.

(Vs) Luke 24:25-27 – 25 And He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

- Can you just imagine Jesus smirking here...? You see when Jesus now gets to step in a walk them through the Scriptures. He talks about how the entire OT (in Jewish the TaNaK) pointed to Himself.
- What Jesus is doing here is demonstrating how their trauma, grief, and pain fits into a much larger story.
- When we're intentional, when we do not miss the moments of being on purpose, the doors open to invite people into the larger metanarrative that is coursing throughout human history and inviting us to get on.

### All of this for Jesus leads to a meal.

(Vs) Luke 24:28-31 – So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

- I chuckle at this moment, because literally Jesus is that guy who gets invited to something and is like... (Oh well I guess that other thing can wait). But now He is intentional with *eating with them...* (COMPANIONSHIP).
- Something happens when we're willing to do life across the table with someone and eat with them. It's so human, and Jesus does this with these two. He is not even missing a meal.
- By the way, notice how he dishes up the bread... it's the exact manner in which he did so at the Last Supper. This leads to the final revelation of who HE is.

(Vs) Luke 24:32-35 – 32 They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

- Notice here, that they are now sharing the story. They're now continuing the practice of living life intentionally and on purpose. They're now replicating the example of Jesus and sharing how intentional He was with the others.

- You see, Jesus could have, right from the beginning of this story, said, "Hey, I am alive. That's the right answer... Go tell everyone." Instead He walks, process, listens, and eats with them. He walks through their story with them, and uses the opportunity to tell them of the bigger story theirs fits in.
- It's in this that they are able to **LOOK BACK** and **SEE** where Jesus was in their story. It was only after. The text literally says their hearts burned while he walked with them and talked with them...
- This is the power of intentionality, it causes us to see where Jesus has been in our stories when we look back. How many of you have ever read the Chronicles of Narnia? Well I did not until I was in college... But one book that deeply resonated with me was "The Horse and His Boy." In the story, Shasta is an orphaned boy living with an abusive fisherman who goes on this journey to find a new home in Narnia. While on the journey, he ends up lost in the woods, with a creature walking alongside of him.
- This creature ends up being Aslan, but Shasta cannot see it yet. The creature walks with him, and asks him to tell him of his sorrows (or his story). While Shasta recounts the story, it leads to Shasta sharing all the pain and disappointment of his story.
- This story to me, much like the Emmaus Road story, illustrates the true power of intentionality. That when we live our lives viewing nothing as an accident and everything being on purpose, we begin to take advantage of every opportunity. We begin to see the flat basketballs and walks in the neighborhood, and the coworker our desk is next to, and the parents of our kids' best friend as opportunities. When we do, suddenly the folks in our lives begin to look back, and THEY SEE JESUS!!!! And it changes everything.

### **That Pastor... Rick ended up unofficially adopting me. He dropped me off at college, he officiated my wedding.**

- God used him to change my life, to show me and help me see Jesus.
- I see Jesus in my story. I see Jesus in the social worker who picked me up from Glen View Elementary. I see Jesus in the police officer who picked my sister and me up from the dilapidated apartment in San Jose. I see Jesus is Rick who stops to pump up a flat basketball. I see Jesus in my wife who forgives me every day... When we stop to live intentionally PEOPLE SEE JESUS and see how their stories POINT TO JESUS.

### **My dream for the students here at Kessid...**

- It doesn't take much. Stopping for a smile with your barista at Black Rock, saying "hi" to the neighbors and pumping up their basketball, even viewing the folks in the row your sitting with here today, with purpose, can start something where one day you might be in heaven and have someone run up to you...
- So to help, we're not going to end with a song. We're going to end with a 35-cent donut. Because being intentional doesn't have to be expensive or even time consuming... It can literally be 5 minutes eating a donut with someone in this room today. But, I think God has something for us even in these five minutes that can change our lives or maybe someone next to you.