

# Luke 24:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

## Analysis

**And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?** One disciple is named—**Cleopas** (Kleopas, Κλεοπᾶς), distinct from Clopas in John 19:25. His identity is uncertain; some traditions suggest he was the other disciple's (possibly Luke himself?) companion, though this is speculative. Naming one witness while leaving the other anonymous follows ancient historiographical practice and suggests eyewitness testimony.

Cleopas's response drips with incredulity: **Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem** (sy monos paroikeis Ierousalēm, σὺ μόνος παροικεῖς Ἱερουσαλὴμ)—literally "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem?" The verb paroikeō (παροικέω) means to dwell as a foreigner, reside temporarily. His question implies everyone in Jerusalem knew about Jesus' crucifixion—it was the talk of the city. How could this stranger be ignorant of events that consumed public attention?

The phrase **and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days** (kai ouk egnōs ta genomena en autē en tais hēmerais tautais, καὶ οὐκ ἔγνων τὰ γενόμενα ἐν αὐτῇ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ταύταις) emphasizes recent events' magnitude. Cleopas assumes no informed person could be unaware. The irony is

profound: he explains Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection to Jesus Himself. This sets up Christ's rebuke (verse 25) and Scripture exposition (verses 25-27).

## Historical Context

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Crucifixion was a public spectacle designed to maximize shame and deter resistance. Jesus' execution outside Jerusalem's walls, during Passover when the city swelled with pilgrims, would have been widely known. The religious leaders' role, Pilate's involvement, the darkness and earthquake (Matthew 27:45, 51), the temple veil's tearing (Luke 23:45)—all created widespread awareness and discussion.

Cleopas's assumption that everyone knew reflects historical reality. Yet his response also reveals tragic irony: he knew the facts but missed their meaning. He could recite events but didn't understand their theological significance. This is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus—historical information versus Spirit-illuminated faith.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What is the irony of Cleopas explaining Jesus' crucifixion to Jesus, and what does this teach about spiritual blindness?
2. How can people know facts about Jesus (His death, resurrection) without truly knowing Him?
3. What does this verse teach about the difference between public awareness of Christ and personal recognition of Him?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀποκριθεὶς	δὲ	ὁ	εἷς	ὃς	ὄνομα	Κλεοπᾶς
<b>answering</b>	<b>And</b>	<sup>G3588</sup>	<b>the one of them</b>	<b>whose</b>	<b>name</b>	<b>was Cleopas</b>
G611	G1161		G1520	G3739	G3686	G2810
εἶπεν	πρὸς	αὐτῇ	Σὺ	μόνος	παροικεῖς	ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ
<b>said</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>Art thou</b>	<b>only</b>	<b>a stranger</b>	<b>in Jerusalem</b>
G2036	G4314	G846	G4771	G3441	G3939	G1722 G2419
καὶ	οὐκ	ἔγνω	τὰ	γενόμενα	ἐν	αὐτῇ ἐν
<b>and</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>hast</b>	<sup>G3588</sup>	<b>the things which are come to pass</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>him in</b>
G2532	G3756	G1097		G1096	G1722	G846 G1722
ταῖς	ἡμέραις	ταύταις				
<sup>G3588</sup>	<b>days</b>	<sup>G3778</sup>				
	G2250					

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 19:25** (Parallel theme): Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

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