



WILMINGTON EMMAUS

Spiritual Director Maurice's Musing



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All Emmaus walks and gatherings are held at the United Methodist Church
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Wilmington, OH
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Five years ago Debbie and I had the privilege of visiting the Holy Lands for 10 days. (It's looking like there may be another opportunity this coming January. When I get more details I'll share them, if anyone would be interested.)

One of the unique experiences we had was the chance to ride a camel. It was a short ride around a parking lot (a photo opp.) for only "one American dollar!" We rocked back-and-forth on top of the ugly thing. It slowly plodded along, but it wasn't an easy ride.

In the course of describing the distinguishing attributes of camels, our guide mentioned that they can live for up to three months without water. They are obviously built for the desert.

What a contrast to the sleek "deer" the writer had in mind in

Psalm 42 (Read Psalm 42:1-6). Bounding through the meadows and the forests, the deer is satisfied and sustained on a regular supply of water. He needs it and yearns for it in his fast-paced existence.

How easy it is in the middle of our abundant, consumer lifestyle, to be far more like the camel than the deer. Rarely sensing a need for God, some people can go for months without any thought of Him. For some of us, life has been a long stretch of religious and secular activity without any sense of utter dependence on Him or sincere desire to know Him. The problem is that we weren't built for life in a 'spiritual desert'. We were built – redeemed, in fact – for regular, satisfying access to the refreshing presence of God. God didn't give us the seventh day to rest and worship because He

needed it, but because we needed it.

So what is it that keeps us from really longing for and seeking Him? Do we satisfy our thirst for God with some other activity? Of all the things that make us like the camel, none is as glaring as the sin of self-sufficiency. We have reduced Jesus to the sidelines while we go about our business; turning to Him only in time of confusion or emergency.

Let's drink deeply in the living presence of our loving God more like a thirsty deer, making frequent visits, and less like a camel, with only an occasional stop.

Ask yourself – how often do I seek out God to be refreshed? Am I more like the camel, seeking refreshment every now and then, or more like the deer, always seeking cool refreshment, and renewal?

Trivia:

Whose spirit did Saul ask to consult through a medium?
A. Samuel's (1 Sam 28:7-8)

What motivated Moses to break the tablets of the Ten Commandments?

What did Paul urge Euodias and Syntyche to do in the letter to the Philippians?
A. Stop arguing (Philip 4:2)

Who was the agent of God's healing of Paul's blindness?

Important Things to Remember When You Are Ready to Sponsor...

- P** Pray Prayer is so important in sponsorship. Pray first. Pray before ever asking someone to consider taking an Emmaus Walk. Ask God who you should sponsor. Listen for God's answer. Don't rush the decision. Remember, we're on God's time and His time is perfect.
- I** Inform Pilgrims need to be informed. Don't rush their decision. Inform them about the objectives of the Emmaus Walk. Let them think about going. Ask them to pray about their decision. Meet with them a few times to answer questions. Help them make an informed decision.
- L** Letters The letters the Pilgrim will receive are so important. Start with the spouse. If the spouse has not attended a walk, ask them to write a private "love letter" to their partner. Next, contact the parents and close friend to get other names. Explain the nature and purpose of the letters.
- G** Gatherings Your job of sponsorship doesn't end at closing. Explain about the Gatherings before they fill out the registration form. Let them know that you will be picking them up for their first Gathering after their walk. This is another act of sponsorship agape.
- R** Reunion (Share) Groups Share Groups and Reunion Groups are the same thing. As a sponsor, you should definitely help your pilgrim find a Share Group. Work with the Pilgrim, and the Community Good Shepherd to find the pilgrim a Share Group, or help your pilgrim start their own Share (Reunion) Group.
- I** Invitation Invite the Pilgrim to your home a few days following the end of their Walk. Use this time of discussion to share thoughts about their experience. Reinforce the goals of the Emmaus Walk Program. Make arrangements for attending the next Gathering and Discuss Share Groups.
- M** Marriage Marriage is Holy. A couple should both commit to attending an Emmaus Walk. If one spouse refuses, it is best not to immediately invite the other. Instead, commit to praying about the decision for six months. If the two are still split on the issue, proceed very prayerfully.
- S** Secrets There are no secrets in the Emmaus Program! Give the pilgrim all the information they need to make an informed decision. People going through the program, knowing all about the talks, the communions and even candlelight, are still powerfully moved by the weekend. No Secrets.

That's Why!

There are reasons for everything that happens on an Emmaus walk. But you knew that didn't you? From the moment the first contact is made with a potential pilgrim to closing on the Walk weekend, every action, every event, every encounter the pilgrim has with the community and team has been designed with one goal in mind, to share God's love and grace equally with every pilgrim.

We need to remind ourselves of the why?

Contact by Pilgrims with 4th Day persons is limited and controlled because in Emmaus *everyone is equal* in God's eyes and no one person should be highlighted or their attention deflected from the message of the weekend.

That's WHY we don't share our occupations on the walk until Sunday afternoon.

That's WHY 4th day persons are asked not to interact with pilgrims or team during the weekend or present an individual pilgrim or team member with a gift until they are being driven home from the Walk weekend.

The Emmaus Cross you were given at closing is to be worn only at closings and gatherings.

WHY? Because the Pilgrim will not have a clue what the Cross stands for until they have attended a Walk. *That's WHY* the cross should never be worn at candlelight.

Name Badges get us beyond that awkward moment when we first greet you and try to remember your name. *That's WHY* we say, please wear your NAME BADGE to everything and if you have lost our, contact your Walk Weekend LD.

AGAPE is for everyone and is always, always needed. The more the merrier. If you would like to share Agape with the pilgrims, the number of pilgrims on every walk is 30 with 21 team members. Total agape needed 45.

Day Four Books are provided for your purchase at every Sponsorship Hour. The book costs \$5.00 and explains everything that happens on the weekend which should be given to your pilgrim after the walk. *WHY?* So Emmaus is never looked upon as a organization with secret rites!

We are all equal in God's eyes. Let's all pledge to share this truth with every pilgrim we meet and encounter!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PO BOX 759
HILLSBORO, OH 45133**

**Gatherings are held
on the second Tuesday of each month
Board meeting – 6:00
Gathering – 7:00
(singing starts at 6:45)**

**When attending a gathering or closing,
You may wish to bring food to share
During the fellowship time**



Don't forget
Wilmington
Emmaus is
on the web:

www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

Chrysalis Hoot is held every third
Monday of every month at the
Grace Methodist Church in Wash-
ington C.H. It starts at 7pm. Come
and be a part of the Chrysalis Com-
munity.

Agape—If you are sponsoring a
pilgrim, please get your letters out
to people early.

Name Badges Are

Important!

Don't forget to wear your name
badge to all Emmaus events. This
includes working in the kitchen,
scrubbing bathrooms, gatherings,
candlelights, and closings.



“Well, technically, he hasn't
broken his vow of silence.”