

## **Identity of Emmaus Road Disciples**

### **By Bob Young**

#### **Is Clopas the same as Cleopas?**

There is no good reason for making this identity. The Bible never makes it, although some Church Fathers suggested the possibility. The identification seems to be based on the similarity of two names, like confusing Jane and Jan. Some have suggested Cleopas may be the Greek form of the Hebrew Clopas, but this cannot be proved with certainty.

#### **Do we have any idea about the identity of the other individual?**

Tradition says the companion of Cleopas was a man named Simon. Tradition is not a sure source of information, but should carry some weight in determining the thinking of the early church about this question.

#### **Could this be Cleopas (Clopas) and his wife, Mary?**

This question raises two additional factors. (1) There is a high probability grammatically that the text of John 19:25 identifies only three women, and that Mary the wife of Clopas is the sister of Mary the mother of Jesus. In that case, it would be especially unusual, but not impossible, that Jesus' aunt would not recognize him. (2) It would be unusual (but not impossible) in Scripture for a husband/wife duo not to be so identified.

#### **What about the idea that they asked him to stay "with us".**

The possibility that the two travelers were related or were family members could explain a single residence or eating place, as could the idea that they intended to go further, and that they only planned to spend the night in Emmaus. Emmaus was a natural passage to points further away from Jerusalem.