

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

A thick, wavy line in a vibrant pink color runs vertically down the left side of the image, set against a white background that forms a narrow vertical strip.

 New Life
Church
Bristol

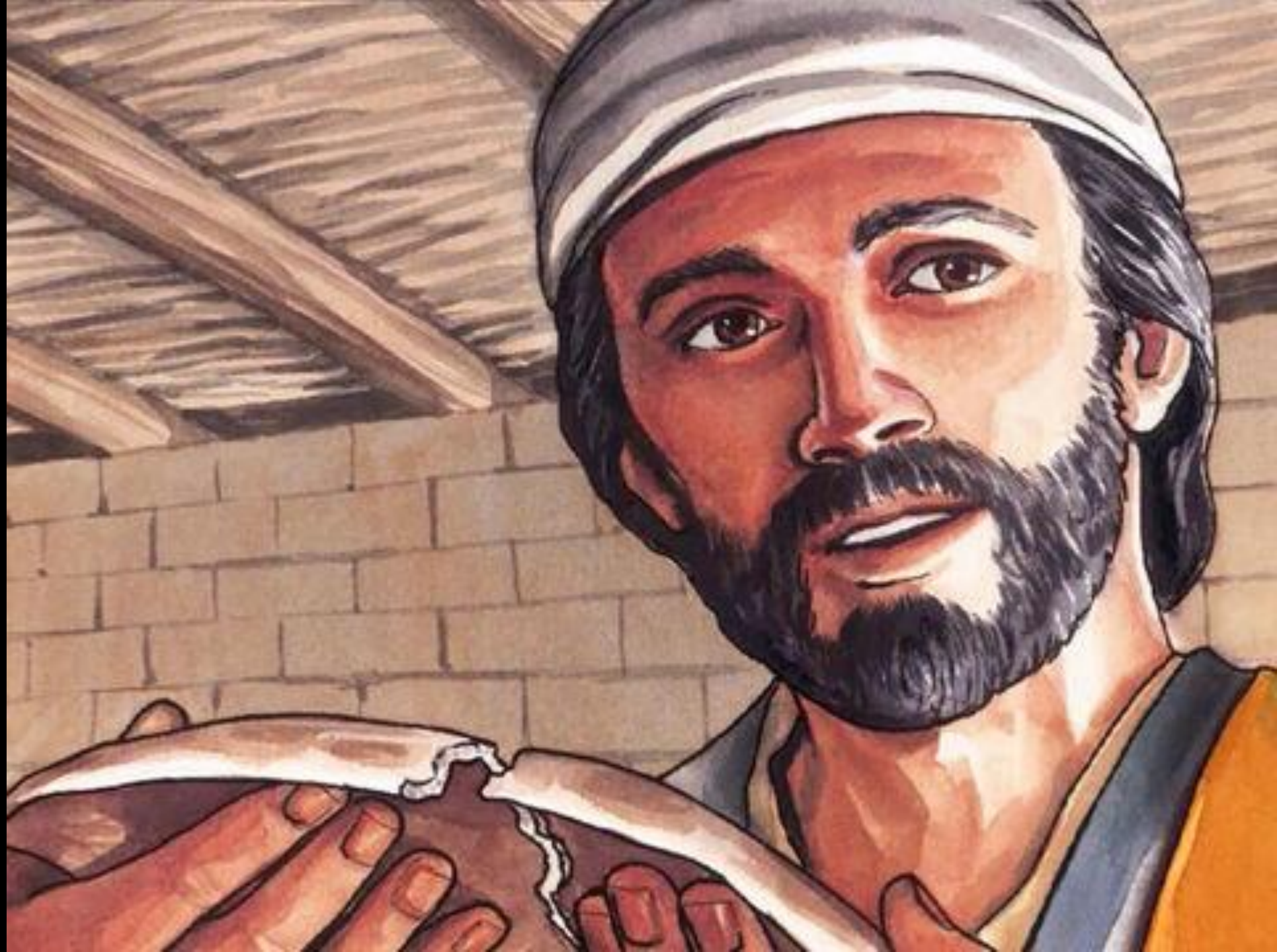
RICHARD BROWN

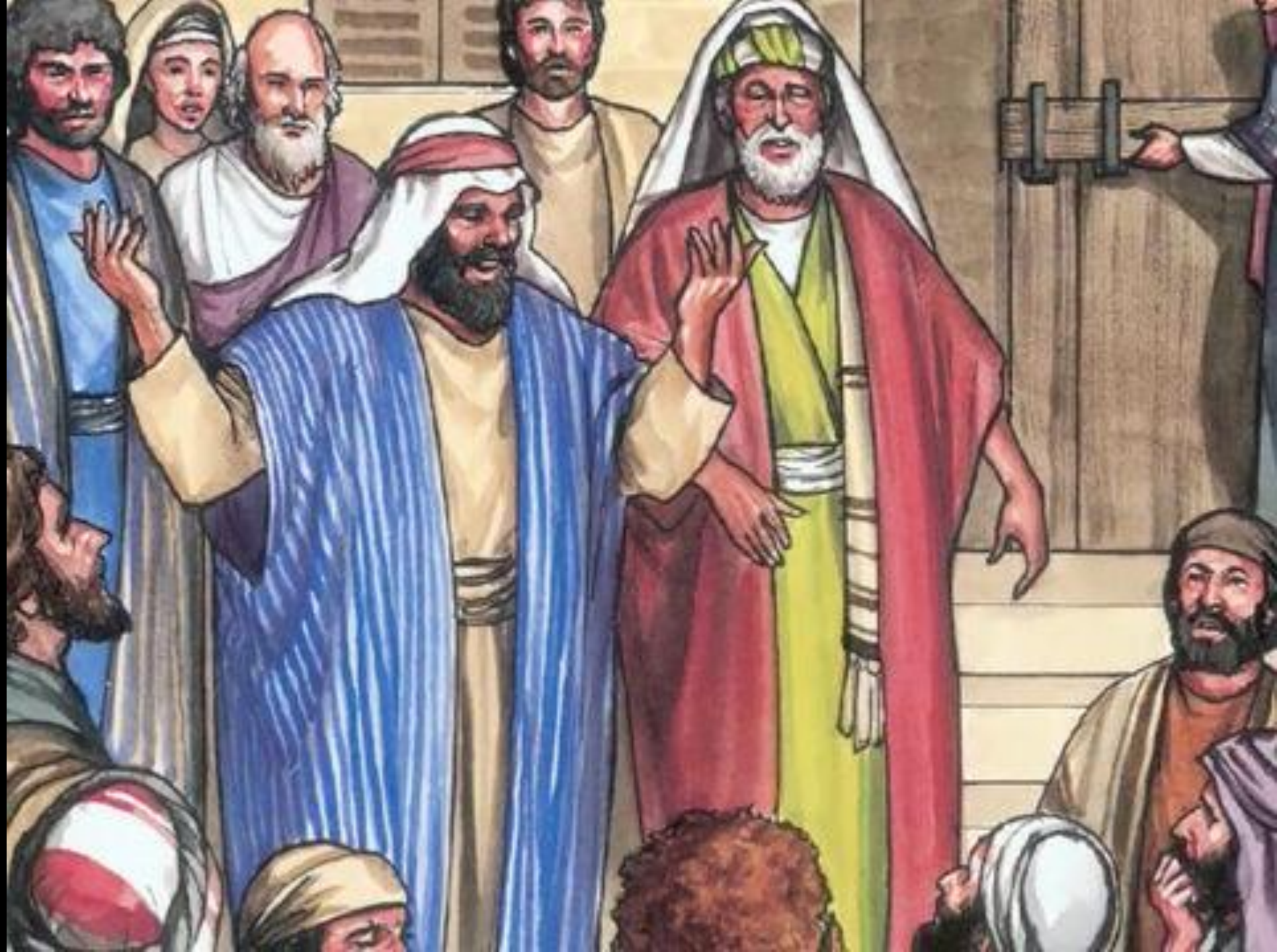












THREE PARTS TO THIS STORY

- The disciples walked away
- Jesus met them where they were
- The invitation



THE DISCIPLES WALKED AWAY

- The disciples were hurting, confused and feeling like they had lost all hope
 - *We thought Jesus was going to be the Messiah and now he is dead.*
 - *What's worse is that someone seems to have stolen the body.*
 - *What happened to all those promises Jesus made?*
 - ...
- Rather than stay with the other disciples, they chose to withdraw; they walked away.

THE DISCIPLES WALKED AWAY

- *“We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel”*
 - *Disappointment, let down, unrealised expectations, hurt, confused, angry...*
- How do we feel when God doesn't answer our prayers as we expect?
- How do we feel when people let us down?

JESUS MET THEM WHERE THEY WERE

- Jesus comes alongside the disciples and walks with them.
- Other examples of God coming alongside:
 - Elijah in the cave
 - Jonah in the whale
 - Peter on the beach

JESUS MET THEM WHERE THEY WERE

- Jesus restores the disciples' hope using scripture
- Challenge: *“Am I still eager for God’s word? Or have I become dulled to it through over-familiarity? Have I even become resistant or dismissive of it?”* (Lectio 365)
- *Let us never lose the preciousness of the Word of God.*

THE INVITATION

- The disciples *invited* Jesus to stay with them.
 - Their hearts had started to burn within them.
 - They could have resisted those feelings
 - Instead, they invited Jesus into their home and around their table.
- We too need to invite Jesus into our home
 - “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”
Revelation 3:20

THE INVITATION

- They *broke bread* together and their eyes were opened.
 - Jesus' death on the cross is the foundation of our faith; this is where it all starts.
 - The broken-hearted are healed; prisoners are set free; chains are broken...
 - As we come to the foot of the cross and worship, our eyes are opened.

THE INVITATION

- They *returned* immediately to Jerusalem.
 - Step back into the story God has prepared for you.
 - Through their own story they encourage the other disciples.
 - We can share our story to encourage others
- There's always a way back into God's story for your life.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS STORY?

- Jesus is always walking alongside us, full of compassion and love and is saying to you *“Talk to me”*.
- Don’t resist, invite Jesus in to your home, your life, your burden, your story; let him sit at your table.
- Lay your burdens at the cross and worship.
- Step back into your story.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS STORY?

- Be with Jesus, be like Jesus, do as Jesus did.
 - Capture God's heart for your friends, family, neighbours, or even strangers
 - Come alongside them and walk with them; listen to their story; speak the love of Jesus
- Ask God for “the one” and commit to their journey.