

On the road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

We just listened to the Breaking News, which described what had happened before today's reading about the two men: "The death has occurred in the Roman province of Judea, of Jesus of Nazareth

- They called him popular teacher, Son of Joseph etc...
He was known: as a healer known, for feeding multitude of people; and known for bringing people back from the dead.

I know how painful it can be when you get a bad medical report card. My parents travelled to Denver Colorado where the doctor told us that he only had 6 months live. We were devastated. We asked the doctor to go ahead with the surgery. Then we thought of getting a second opinion where six specialists told us that they could not share that doctor's view because they were not GOD to give a timeline.

My son Stephen came to me and said that his friend Andrew just lost his grandfather. May his soul rest in peace. Sorry Sue for the loss; may God be with you and the entire family during this tough time.

I wonder how you would deal with your closest friend or relative's sudden death. Fear or deception? The disciples just lost their leader, Jesus Christ.

Deception, fear, disappointment in our relationships, financial difficulties, or health issues can trigger spiritual crisis. Have you ever felt like running away because of fear or deception? Sometimes we turn to medication, drugs etc...

For the disciples, their leader was just found guilty and was executed. The fear of the government coming after you. We do not know.

Where do we find solutions in times of fear and troubles? Today, we just read about the road to Emmaus.

Two men whom Jesus mysteriously joins on their way to Emmaus shortly after his resurrection. The Bible says that Jesus was not recognizable to the men. Do you see Jesus sitting next to you? Do you see Jesus standing next to me? Do you see Jesus while you are going through difficulties?

It is obvious from the text that the two men did not understand who Jesus really was and what he came to do. However, these men were looking for something different; may be a miracle.

As Jesus was walking along with them, he asked them what they were discussing to which they replied (paraphrasing) "Are you the ONLY person here who has not heard what just happened?" Jesus pressed them further for an answer and they began recounting the entire story of his crucifixion. Here is how I know that they were not ready or had different aspirations for the Messiah. When Jesus asked them what happened, they were standing and looking sad. Jesus took them back to the scriptures because the bible says:" In the beginning was the

In Luke 24:21..."But we were hoping that it was he who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened."

Brothers and sisters; the third day is crucial because in Jewish culture, it was believed that after three days of being dead, there was no coming back from that. They did not understand the Scriptures talking about His death. However, they also said something else that was crucial to our understanding. They said that the women who went to the tomb told them that the tomb was empty and that Jesus was alive! Yes, Jesus is alive and well.

Why were they sad? I guess they did not believe what the women had said, not unlike the other disciples who also did not believe at first when they saw the resurrected Jesus.

What can we learn from these men and this experience?

When we have doubts about what God is doing, we should search the scriptures and pray for understanding. The church needs to always go back to the scriptures.

The Word stands forever. It is the Word of God by which the universe was created (genesis 1:3) and upon which the universe holds together (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17).

The Word of God shapes our worldview and therefore Jesus took them to the Scriptures and showed them WHY He had to die and WHAT His ministry was truly about. Here is a great example of what we must do as Christians when we are in doubt about anything, we consult the word of God and pray for the Spirit of God to explain or open the word up to us!

We must invite Jesus into our personal lives like those two men did.

As they approached the village where they were going, Jesus acted as though he was going farther. But they begged him, saying: “Stay with us”. Therefore, he went in to stay with them. When people come to church, they need to feel welcome, and they need to feel the presence of God because he is in our midst.

The two men wanted Jesus to stay with them. They begged him to stay. This is the same attitude that we must have. They were taught the scriptures on the road but was that enough? They wanted more. We (the church) cannot remain stagnant in our walk with Jesus. We must desire more of him each day.

We must surrender to Jesus.

When we go into people’s house, we do not just act as if it is our house. However, in verses 30-31, Jesus who was the guest took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. We need to surrender our body/ our lives to Jesus. We need to let Jesus took control of our lives.

Jesus comes in and eats with them. The book of Revelation 3:20 says Jesus: Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone HEARS my voice...You first need to hear the voice of Jesus knocking at the door. If anyone hears my voice and OPENS the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me. Are you ready to open the door and let Jesus in your life? When we do, we will be his witness. Remember when Jesus asked his disciples about what people thought that he was? Then, he looked at them and asked: “Who do you say that I am?” It is only after we open our heart and surrender to him that we will be able to say with confidence that he is the son of God, our Lord and Savior.

We must surrender our bread to Jesus. He can do more with it than we can! We must surrender totally to him. Jesus is alive and well. I pray that this was a blessing to you and that it edifies and nourishes you to the glory of God! Grace and peace be upon you.

JBK