

Believing for the Advent-ure!

Living a Life of Daring Faith between Jesus' First and Second Coming

Luke 24.1-53 The Road to Emmaus

Opening thoughts

- Christianity is a journey that generally begins with people walking the wrong direction disillusioned and confused as to who Jesus really is.

Luke 24

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" (*What are all these words? Living = "You seem to be in deep discussion about something... What are you so concerned about?"*) They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

- Emmaus = Gk. "The place of hot water"
- Walking away from the cross.
- Talk, talk, talk – human reasoning that leads to illogical conclusions and an illogical society.
 - "About everything that had happened."
 - About the conflict between religion and politics.
 - An innocent man tried in an unjust court and sentenced to death.
 - Where is God in all of this?
 - There must have been too many talk shows in Jerusalem.
- Faces were downcast – disillusioned, confused and depressed.
- Jesus response – "What are all these words?"
- Hope in a Messiah, redeemer, eternal life – The hope of mankind.
- Who is Jesus?
 - A prophet?

- A great teacher?
- A miracle worker witnessed before God and men?
- Jesus was with them – but they couldn't recognize him.

²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

- The testimony of others who have encountered him. – “But him we didn't see...”

²⁵He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

- The testimony of the scripture.
- Jesus was the fulfillment of 2000 years of prophecy.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

- They let Him in. Free will issue – he would have walked on.
- Revelations 3:20 - 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 him, and he with me.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

- Epiphany:
 - Eyes were opened and everything made sense, even the scripture.
 - Their hearts were strangely warmed – as Christ came in to them.

³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

- Reaction to the reality of Christ:
 - Repentance - got up and turned around.
 - Back into the fellowship of believers.
 - Back to the cross.

- Back to the action. No longer living in denial or withdrawal.
- The sacrament of Communion takes on a whole new meaning.

36While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things. 49I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension

50When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.