

26 April 2020 Third Sunday of Easter Cycle A Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying,

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be our Lord Jesus Christ

26 April 2020 - Third Sunday of Easter Homily/Reflection - Dick Bayless

Each of the Gospels tells a different story how the Apostles and disciples identify the Risen Christ following the Resurrection.

In three of the four Gospels we hear about the principals, who we are already somewhat familiar with, like John, Peter, and Mary Magdalen, etc. The principals discover Jesus is Risen, and then work to share this knowledge with the community, who then collectively try to put this event (the Resurrection), like a puzzle piece, into their understanding of who Jesus is, and what are his goals for His life on earth.

Only one disciple is named by St. Luke in today's Gospel (Cleopas).

What is the name of the other disciple walking the Emmaus journey?

The other person is **you/me**.

The Scriptures selected for today, from St. Luke and St. Peter summarized from the Ordo, teach us:

“Through the Blood of Jesus, we have been delivered from the power of sin. We **“recognize** Him in the breaking of the Bread”; the one whom God raised from the dead, and the one who now sits at His right hand forever.”

Bishop Barron says to “always keep **‘the big picture’** in our mind, and heart.”

The Baltimore Catechism taught me, (in the 2nd grade by the Dominican Sisters), a short, concise statement of faith.

Question: Why did God make you/me?

Answer: God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

- We **know** Him through the Bible, and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- We **love** Him because He loved us first from the moment of conception, and continues to love us no matter where we are in life.
- We **serve** Him in this world, first by living our life as he taught, and working with others to help them also to be on the path to eternity with Jesus, aka “Love your neighbors as yourself.”

Our goal should be “heaven bound, to be with Jesus **forever**.”

Being good Christian citizens of Silicon Valley, we understand the statement: “Living out our faith is a **process**, and not a **single** event.”

We can begin today to pray for wisdom in:

Recognizing Jesus ...

Recognizing Jesus' **presence in my/our life.**

Recognizing the **grace/strength of Jesus given in the Eucharist** to help me on my journey of life.

Recognizing Jesus' presence in my/our life, **always is a call to action.**

Begin with speaking with Jesus **in our daily personal prayer.**

On one level, the Emmaus story is about the first experiences of two of Jesus' disciples, after his death and resurrection; On another level, it is the story of Jesus disciples in later era's and circumstances (perhaps 2020), who also meet Him on their journey.

Those who hear this account can see **their** own questions, actions, and emotions in those of the two Emmaus bound disciples. And Jesus' words and deeds teach every generation about His **identity**, and how he is **present** among them.

We should invite Jesus into our life journey (every day, and every week).

The Breaking of the Bread we celebrate in the Mass is meant to give us the Grace/strength to journey on through life with Jesus **always** present in our life.

The goal always being to prepare for eternal life with the One who wants us to choose living as His disciple.

- Deacon Dick Bayless