

Co-Community Spiritual Director's Thoughts

We need to always remember that the Emmaus story is not just a meeting two men had a long time ago with their risen Savior. This is an Easter encounter available to everyone who is willing to invite Jesus into your life and break bread with him. Remember the invitation Jesus wrote through the Apostle John to the members of the church in Laodecia, *"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."* (Rev 3:20 NIV)

Let's look a little deeper into this even and see how it applies to our lives.

Two men were walking toward the sunset. It was getting toward evening and Emmaus was a small village to the west of Jerusalem so they would be walking into a setting sun. Their hearts were going down along with the light. Everything they had hoped for was fading forever. However we as Christians never walk toward the sunset but toward the sunrise. Hope never ends for those who know the Risen Christ. Christians travel not to a night that is falling but a dawn that is breaking, bright and eternal.

However to these two men, nothing seemed to make sense. They had seen and heard what God had done through Jesus. Not only had they seen but also everyone had seen and heard what Jesus had said and done. Far from receiving and celebrating what God had done through Jesus the religious authorities, those in charge of keeping God's affairs in the world, the chief priests, had handed Jesus over to the pagan Roman authorities to crucify. All these two men had left was a wistful regret: *"We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."* (Luke 24:21 NIV)

Then Jesus came and talked with them and the meaning of it all became clear. He reminded them of what God had already promised through the prophets, words that told of purposes that could not be thwarted and would not pass away. The power of the authorities and the priests may be strong but nothing could overcome the promises of God. How much we need to remember that today

when the powers of the world seem to be so strong and set against the will and ways of God. It is only in Jesus that we are able to see what life and the things that happen to us mean. Even tragedy becomes triumph when we are able to look at events through the door of the open tomb.

As important as this meeting was, Jesus would not force himself upon these two travelers. He would have kept right on walking if they had not invited him in. They would have gone inside, said to each other what a great talk they had with the stranger on the road, had a bite and gone to bed. Is that all we expect from God? How important it is for us to be available to God for anything and everything he has for us in life and ministry! We can go into the privacy of our homes and to our settled familiar ways and let Jesus go right on by. We will never know what we have missed! Is that not the ultimate tragedy? To miss what the Risen Christ has for your life? What opportunities are there for you to encounter Christ in which you are tempted to settle for the "same old, same old"? Make no mistake, truly inviting Jesus into your life will send you to places and people and situations you would never have otherwise known or experienced. They invited Jesus in and he was revealed to them when he broke the bread.

You can tell when you have seen Jesus because you have to share it with others. You know when you are doing God's work because you do it in the company of others who know and love the same Lord. When these men got back to Jerusalem they found that the others had seen Jesus too and shared their joy.

That joy wasn't just a remembrance; it was a calling onward and outward.

Have you had this Easter encounter? Have you invited the Lord into your life like these men invited Jesus into their home? Have you seen Jesus for who he is? Then get ready. This is just the beginning of a great adventure.

Your Community Co-Spiritual Director,

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