

*Blinded by What We See*

Scripture Lesson: Luke 24:13-35

When they sat down at the table, they were still with the stranger out there in the road. They had spent the whole week in the holy city, on religious pilgrimage. And they had been so busy with all the events that had happened, that they forgot Passover was about God's saving power. They thought Jesus would redeem Israel, that his Messiah saving would make them a great nation again. But he had lost, ...been conquered and crushed. They heard the reports and had the hopes, ...but they were on their way home, back to the real world.

Jesus comes in the busyness of our real world, everyday road, and we just think he is another stranger. We look for the Savior we already see, and that keeps us from seeing what is right there in front of our eyes. What else but our blindness could keep us from recognizing him? We are blinded by what we already see

In his risen power of Spirit, none of them recognized him at first. In all his appearances after resurrection, some clue connected to a small memory opens our eyes: he calls us by name, he makes some surprising appearance, he speaks a word of peace in our fear. He opens our eyes.

Those travelers on their way back to the real world. They were so filled with visions of rescue from their world of trouble that they never recognized the face they knew. They were so busy talking to him that they did not listen to recognize his voice, even though they were drawn to him enough to invite him in and not sure why...

Then something so simple, so common, so inconsequential occurred. It is just a loaf of bread that he took in his hands and broke. They recognized him in the breaking of bread! Something in his small gesture made them remember, and their eyes were opened.

Do you see the clues to his saving in this room, on this Table? This meal for remembering is full of clues to his presence. The room is a sanctuary, the table is not like any others you see, even the dishes - and yes, the loaf - look different. Does the busyness in our road or the occupations of our mind keep us from seeing the saving that is walking with us in the way? Does what we expect blind us to what Christ reveals? Does our vision of what we think we think we need in a savior get in the way? Are we blinded by what we already see?

How foolish we are, to think that Jesus will come to us the way we already see him! With the help of all these clues like a loaf and cup, can we see his saving presence with the different eyes of our believing hearts? That burning sense of Spirit within is the best clue, ...when we turn our attention to what is happening in your hearts.

What if you just closed your eyes to the Jesus you think you know, and looked with new imagination at the risen Lord who sits down at table with you?

What if you could really see that he is a Savior who forgives every sin of your past? What if you could see that you are worth the cost he suffered for your sake?

What if you could know that he walks every step of your path with you, is always listening past your babbling about the trouble in the world or about the needs of your day until you start asking him questions?

What if you had the chance to break bread with a person who loves you so much that he will never leave you in your daily walk? What if you could ask the risen Lord what he thought you should do with your life?

Well, here is your chance!

We are going to break the loaf in a few moments. Set aside every distraction that puts your thoughts back in the road, every prayer where you are asking Jesus to help you the way you want to be helped. Open your eyes and ears and heart, so that you can hear the answers to your questions about faithful following, can see the saving love that puts your life in a new direction. With all your heart accept his love that does more than die for you, ...that lives with you and will never forsake you.

He vanished from their sight, but they knew he was with them in their hearts. He walked that same road back to the followers. He will walk with us in new directions to tell all we meet that risen Lord still is with us, that he has changed our vision and direction, and nothing will ever be the same in his power.