



# Daily Reflections

**April 19, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **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 the bread.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Yes, they recognized Him in the breaking of the Bread. However, something profound had to happen first before they recognized Him. While their eyes were still "closed" due to their lack of faith, they acted upon one important teaching that their Lord had previously taught them: HOSPITALITY TO THE STRANGER. Think about it. There would have been no opening of their eyes had they not first invited that "stranger" in. "For I was a stranger and you welcomed me", Jesus had once said to them.

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## **Food for your Journey**

What makes you think that you're any different than the two disciples on the Emmaus road? You think you'd recognize Jesus if you saw him? What if you made an appointment to meet Jesus down at Starbucks? "Yeah, come on down, we'll chat," Jesus says. So how would you know him? Would you look for the guy in a toga? Somebody with long blond hair? Chances are, you'd have trouble, like most people, recognizing people you should know, but don't.

The disciples sometimes had this problem. "And the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid'" (Matthew 14:24-27, NIV). "He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not

know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him" (John 1:11-12).

So, how can we get better at recognizing Jesus when he comes to us?

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Lord, May I always remember that when I meet the needs of the sick and hungry and naked and ill and the stranger, I am ministering to You. Amen.