



Daily Reflections

April 20, 2017

Scripture

Luke 24: 35-48

The disciples of Jesus recounted what had taken place along the way, and how they had come to recognize him in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled?

And why do questions arise in your hearts?

Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.

Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,

he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
They gave him a piece of baked fish;
he took it and ate it in front of them.
He said to them,
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,
that everything written about me in the law of Moses
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled."
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
And he said to them,
"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things."

Our Scripture Reflection

Luke makes very clear the point that once the doubting disciples received Easter faith, The Lord had work for them to do. They were called to be "martyroi", the Greek word for "witnesses." Please notice that Greek word. It is the same root word for "martyr." To be a true witness to Jesus means being aware that suffering is part of the job description. The disciples would learn this very soon after Easter.

Food for your Journey

"What would you do if you knew that you had only one day to live?" That was the question Gunther Klempnauer asked 625 young students in 12 different German vocational schools. He reported a wide variety of responses including the expected, "Get drunk, get a fix, get a girl." Some said they would spend the time with family, others wanted to climb a mountain or sail their boat, and yet others wanted to go on a picnic with friends. One student indicated that he would spend the time reviewing his photo albums and savoring the memories. An 18-year-old young woman wrote: "I would like to spend my last evening in church alone with God and thank him for my full and happy life."

It is an arresting question and a daunting exercise to answer it. What would we do if we knew that we had but 24 hours to live? [If any of you are moved to write down your own response and share it with me, I would benefit from your thoughts. --Leonard Sweet] Someone once found Francis of Assisi hoeing his garden and put the same question to him. Francis replied, "I would finish hoeing my garden." And I remember how John Wesley was asked what he would do if he knew Jesus' "second coming" would occur the next day; Wesley replied he would continue with what he planned to do, including calling on a friend and preaching that night in a nearby town. A popular news columnist imagined what the world would be like if everyone suddenly knew there were only 24 hours left for them to live. He said the telephone circuits would be overloaded with desperate people trying to call family and friends in order to say, "I love you."

--Donald J. Shelby,

Santa Monica, "Living Tomorrow Today,"

30 May 1993.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Lord, Please give me all of the Grace I need to be a strong and courageous witness to You. Amen.