



Daily Reflection

April 4, 2018

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.

Our Scripture Reflection

There have many talks and reflections about today's beautiful Easter story. Most, however, miss one significant detail: even though the disciples had failed to understand and remember so much of what Jesus had taught them while He was with them on earth, they did remember one of His teachings, that is, showing hospitality to the stranger. Think about it, if the two disillusioned disciples had not invited the stranger they had encountered on the road into their home there would have been no "breaking of the bread", and therefore, no appearance of the Risen Lord at the table. One led to the magnificent other.

Food for your Journey

"The resurrection cannot be fitted into any view of the world except one of which it is itself a total starting point, because the resurrection is the validation of a protest against everything that there is. It is the same point which I made earlier. The cross is the ultimate protest against things as they are, in the name of what ought to be ... the world as it is is not God's last word."

--Lesslie Newbigin,

Journey into Joy

(Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1972), 59.

A Prayer from the Heart

Open our eyes, Lord.

Without the gift of your revelation,

our eyes are kept from recognizing You.

Appear before us, suddenly, unexpectedly, in all Your glory.

So that we, too, may proclaim to a world in despair,

that we have seen the Risen Lord. Amen.