



Daily Reflections

April 5, 2018

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

How could the disciples be so dense and faithless in not recognizing the Risen Lord standing right before them?

The cross was a horrific scandal for them which begged two questions:

1. Why did someone so good and so holy have to die such a horrible death?
2. How could someone who was truly dead be alive after death?

The resurrection evoked from the disciples a complete and radical change of thinking and living. Jesus had, indeed, died but He was now and forever truly alive because of the power of the resurrection. Not only was a totally new kind of faith necessary but His resurrection called for a whole new way of living. After Easter total surrender in trust was necessary for the disciples of the Risen Lord.

Food for your Journey

"Listen, my child," [St. Francis] said, "each year at Easter I used to watch Christ's resurrection. All the faithful would gather around His tomb and weep, weep inconsolably, beating on the ground to make it open. And behold! In the midst of our lamentations the tombstone crumbled to pieces and Christ sprang from the earth and ascended to heaven, smiling at us and waving a white banner. There was only one year I did not see Him resurrected. That year a theologian of consequence, a graduate of the University of Bologna, came to us. He mounted the pulpit in church and began to elucidate the Resurrection for hours on end. He explained and explained until our heads began to swim; and that year the tombstone did not crumble, and, I swear to you, no one saw the Resurrection."

-Nikos Kazantzakis' Tale of St. Francis, quoted by John Shea in Stories of God: An Unauthorized Biography (Chicago, Ill.: The Thomas More Press, 1978), 69.

A Prayer from the Heart

God of Promise and God of Hope,
who through your great mercy
have granted us new birth
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
we praise your wonderful name!

God of Glory and God of Might
who through your great power
have granted us new strength
to endure all things through faith in Christ our Risen King,
we praise your wonderful name! Amen.