

## **A MORNING WALK WITH JESUS**

Because of this year's cycle we will not hear this scripture, but it is one we are all a part of, I chose to use this as the reflection for this Encounter, for itself is and Encounter with the Lord which we all face.

Before we hear the Scripture, I would like us to take a moment to ask the spirit to open our ears, our minds and our hearts to hear the Gospel.

Luke 24:13-31

The same day, two of them were going to Emmaus and they were talking about what had happened.

While they were talking and wondering, Jesus came up and walked with them, but their eyes were held and they did not recognize Him.

He asked, "What is this you are talking about?" They stood still, looking sad, "Why, it seems you are the only traveler in Jerusalem who doesn't know what happened there these past few days." And He asked, "What is it?"

They replied, "It is about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, you know, mighty in word and deed before God and the people. But the chief priests and our rulers sentenced him to death. They handed him over to be crucified. We had hoped he would redeem Israel.

It is now the third day since this all took place. It is true that some women of our group went to the tomb at dawn, they did not find his body; they came to tell us that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. Some friends of our group went to the tomb and found everything just as the women had said, but they did not see HIM."

He said to them, "How dull you are, how slow of understanding! You fail to believe the message of the prophets. Is it not written that the Christ should

suffer all this and then enter his glory?" Then starting with Moses and going through the prophets, he explained to them everything in Scripture concerning himself.

As they drew near the village they were heading for, Jesus made as if to go farther. But they prevailed upon him, "Stay with us, for the night comes quickly. The day is now almost over." So, He went to stay with them.

When they were at table, he took the bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave each a piece.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him: but, he vanished from their sight. And they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us as we were talking on the road. They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem.

Jesus did not wait for his disciples at the END of the Emmaus road, he came searching for them near the beginning of their journey. He finds them going home discouraged and sad that the promises made about Him were not fulfilled. Their hopes for a new world order were dashed. He knows this, but he still approaches them with the love He always had for them.

Just like the disciples, Jesus enters our lives too, but we often do not see Him when our dreams are dashed or life has taken a wrong turn. We do not take the time to open ourselves to see Him present and open our hearts to allow him in or we close our eyes to his presence. How would you feel if you were approached by a stranger at these times in your life.

The disciples apparently felt open as this man approached and touched their hearts, but he knew they needed to be re-evangelized on the concept of his resurrection. It was a challenge to them the first time they heard it and now more of challenge to believe. It was not Him who changed, but they.

As the disciples were putting distance between themselves and Jerusalem, they were also turning their backs on what had become home, family and life to be left behind. Jesus, became for them, just a fellow traveler , a seeker by association with them at this time. But, it was not him who changed, but they because of the events of the past few days. Would we have done the same this Easter? Do we do it today?

As the disciples struggled, so do we, when we do not see the results we think the Lord should have put into our lives.

Jesus asked the question, “What is this you are talking about?” This gave the disciples who were dealing with the shock of the present days , to talk it out. He became a listener and they talked of their hopes and dreams and the confusion over what had transpired, of perceived promises not fulfilled in their minds eye.

Jesus asks us to talk things out with Him as well. Do you take the time to do it? But, also do you listen for his response? Yes, he knows what we need before we ask, but do we verbalize it. For in verbalizing it we come to understand; to discover where we are; to realize He is really the Resurrected Son of God.

Then he opened the Scriptures to them. For we have seen that Jesus was always the one who took the initiative with others in need. He was the one who spoke.

They failed to understand like many of his disciples that the Messiah would be a sacrifice, not honored on a throne with a crown on his head. They “just didn’t get it.” Then and now he tries to teach them as they sit open to him. Jesus was in a teachable moment, but he prepared the ground for these disciples by giving them his history thru the scriptures. We too have experienced conferences, retreats, sermons to bring his light and teachings to

us. What have we heard? How do we approach the Scriptures as a rule of our life and share them by our example of living them out and give Jesus to others. For we are his Message.

We know Jesus made as if to go on further. He had opened these disciples by giving them the light and he waited for their response. It was up to them to decide what they were going to do about what they had heard. Jesus, does not impose himself. He takes his place among this group. He respects the meanderings of the souls on the road. But, they did not let Him go further, they invited Him, “to stay with us, it is nearly evening.” If they had not invited Him, they would not have realized he was the Risen Lord.

Do you invite Jesus Christ in when you experience the comfort of his peace, the comfort of his word? Or do you leave him on the outside so it is only a feel good moment and not a relationship moment?

“Seated at table He took bread, blessed it and broke it and shared it” (1 Cor 10-21). The sign of what God had accomplished by Jesus’ ministry, death and resurrection, where all is made present—all is actualized. The blessing transfigures the meal, it makes a simple meal the Lord’s meal. An Encounter between Jesus and his disciples.

We encounter this event also when we come to Eucharist, it should not be a mere formality. The challenge of Eucharist is that we become Eucharist, united with Jesus.

It also becomes a personal and a community meal. The disciples participated in Himself. In receiving the bread, it is Him whom they receive.

How do we come to the table, are we truly aware of the bread and wine as the Body and Blood of Christ or has it become a routine action that is over in a few moments and not thought about again. Do we remember it was Jesus doing it the first time or have you become a passive participant?

Now they wonder why He vanishes. It is the only way he can begin to give them “Faith without Seeing.” They were not terrified, but awakened to the need to share this with their fellow companions.

Will we this Easter Season walk away from Jesus, because he did not fulfill what we expected—or will we daily see Him in the “breaking of the Bread” and come back to the Community of this followers, with the joy and fear of our own lives—lived out in the day to day routines and seeing Jesus walking with us.

Jesus approaches You

Jesus asks why you are sad

Jesus Listens to you

Jesus teaches you

Jesus breaks bread with you

Jesus vanishes from your sight

Jesus is Here with you

Let us take a few moments to ponder.....Quiet time

Closing: We are all travelers on a journey a journey that never ends, Let us Pray.....

**Risen One, you showed yourself to your early followers to bolster their faith and to glorify your Father. Help us recognize you not only in our breaking open and sharing the bread of the word and the bread of the eucharist but also in the breaking of the bread created by the actions of our everyday lives.**

**Be close to us, Lord, as you were close to all the unnamed disciples who saw you with their eyes. Lord Jesus, be with all of us who must now**

**see you with the eyes of faith. Reveal your resurrected image in a world being transformed through the power of your love.....AMEN.**