

DO YOU RECOGNIZE JESUS?

Text: Luke 24:13-35

4.26.2020 Sermon

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Sermon Parts.

1. Vs. 13-24. Downcast spirits.
2. Vs. 25-32. Uplifted spirits.
3. Vs.33-35. Ready and speedy feet.

Dear Friends of the Risen and Living Savior Jesus,

How long will your hair be after the virus? Pictures are being sent out of people having a bad hair day. Great Clips, Capelli's and other beauty shops are not essential, I guess. What a rush it will be to get a haircut, to get back to normal when the cover is lifted.

Do you ever have trouble recognizing someone when you have not seen them in a while? At class reunions-recognize the face

but the name is gone. Going back home and running into someone you do not recognize. Recognition is a cousin to familiarity.

When someone is recognizable it is because we are familiar with them and see them often. We might say we are not out of touch with them.

2 men took a walk on Easter afternoon. 7 miles back to their home town called Emmaus. Maybe you have seen a picture of this event. A Risen Jesus joins them. They did not recognize him after all he had died right? WHAT ARE YOU DISCUSSING TOGETHER AS YOU ARE WALKING ALONG? Jesus asked.

Answer shows their downcast spirits. Their faces were downcast. Cleopas one of the walkers asked, Are you a visitor that you have not heard the news about Jesus of Nazareth? What are you talking about Jesus asked. Jesus of Nazareth?

A prophet, powerful. Sentenced to death and crucified. We had hoped he was the One who was going to redeem Israel. 3 days ago he died and was buried. Some ladies amazed us with the news they did not find his body. They saw angels who said he was ALIVE. Then some others went to the grave and found it as the ladies had reported. They did NOT see Jesus.

Their spirits were downcast. I go back a minute here. We will recognize someone when we stay in touch with them. How downcast can we be when we do not open God's Word? The source for our virus survival in Jesus and his Word. Our jobs,

schooling, schedules are super important, but the worst suffering is now staying familiar with Christ our Savior. The virus can make our spirits spiral downward to the bottom of the barrel. The spirits of these men plunged. Their hope vanished. On their way home empty were their spirits.

Jesus scolds them on this walking Bible study sharing with them the news from the Psalms, prophets, and Old Testament. Here we have a mini Bible study but on a level a Sunday School child could understand. His Word was there. But how slow to believe. The promises, a Savior would come, forgiveness would be won for all. But oh, so slow to believe. How slow we are. How are you holding up? Are you okay? No really know. Might we have some fake happiness. Are we sitting still on our confirmation and knowing the books of the Bible but not opening it? Back to the Word we go for the essentials of the Gospel and BELIEVING his promises. Lord I believe, help my unbelief!

The walkers invited Jesus to stay the night as daylight was disappearing. He agreed to this generous offer. Then he turns into the host in their home and at the meal. Then they recognized Jesus. When he broke the bread and gave thanks. Vs. 31 THEN THEIR EYES WERE OPENED AND THEY RECOGNIZED HIM, AND HE DISAPPEARED FROM THEIR SIGHT.

What opened their eyes and uplifted their spirits? Jesus' words. They recognized them as being familiar. They witnessed the feeding of the 5000. Jesus broke bread then. At Zacchaeus'

home he broke bread. At last Supper he broke bread. We recognize someone when we are familiar with them. Jesus opened their eyes. We call this a real eye opener. The Words of our Lord do this don't they? They open our eyes to the beautiful words of our Lord. They needed the review just as much as we do. Why he came, what he did and what he said.

The spirits of the 2 walkers as they frowned and were downcast, turned upside down. Their spirits were lifted. Their Resurrection adrenaline was pumping. They had spiritual heartburn. The good kind. WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US WHILE HE TALKED WITH US ON THE ROAD AND OPENED THE SCRIPTURES TO US?

The Gospel is an eye opener. It opens our eyes to the vacant cross, the vacant grave, and yet fills our burning hearts with peace in Jesus. This is a Bible class on the move, on the go, and yet stills us in the storms of life. An eye open to God's rich and deep love for sinner like us. Our frown of despair is turned upside down to joy because of the Resurrection. Christ is God's answer for all anxiety, worry, and loneliness.

The earthly visitor from heaven Jesus has and is the host of our homes also. With stay home work, stay home zoom classes, we have a Savior who did not stay home in heaven. He came here with us in mind. He did what no one else could do for us.

This lead these 2 disciples to have steady, speedy, and ready feet. Time to bed down for the day, how could they? When they returned to Jerusalem later that day, I am sure it was with

quick step. mini jog like strides. What a message they took back from their residence. Their words, IT IS TRUE! The Lord is risen.

With Ready, steady feet they went. To share their story of their hearts being moved. How do you recognize someone? Stay familiar with who they are. They recognized his voice as a Shepherd speaking to them. MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE, St. John says.

The greatest missionary I ever met was a man named Loren Steele. He excelled in sharing his faith based on Scripture with the Chinese and Hmong people. Here was his secret to his steady, quick feet approach and what gave him courage to share Jesus with others. I am Sharing his approach of sharing the Risen Lord with you here.

Loren's words:

GO, GO, GO

Go BACK Go BACK Go BACK

Go back AGAIN. Go back AGAIN. Go back AGAIN

Simple approach. We have seen the Lord and recognized him in the Scriptures. He had risen according to the Scriptures. These travelers were in a walking Bible class with the one who is Author and perfecter of our faith. How steady, speedy, and needy with our steps be? I added the words needy. All are in need of a Savior. We all need Jesus and his grace, mercy, and peace. No one else can do the work of saying to others, IT IS TRUE! We have seen Jesus. We recognize him. Time to put on

the Nike sandals and Go for it. Who do you know today who needs this message?

Scripture Readings for Easter 2-

Psalm 67

First Lesson: Acts 2:14, 36-47

2nd Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Children's message: John 21:1-7

I will include this on Sunday.