

The Road to Emmaus

From Luke, Chapter 24 versus 13-35

Now that very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus about 7 miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all the things that happened. While they were discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk? And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem, who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." And He said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" and beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. So, they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So, He went in to stay with them. When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the Eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Personal Reflection of Greg Tullo

Our redemption was revealed neither on Christmas nor on Easter Sunday morning, rather it was On the Walk to Emmaus!

Jesus said we must believe in the Son of Man. Belief comes with faith and faith a gift from God.

It's a hard saying. Eat my flesh drink my blood. They didn't understand. Mana from heaven. The prefiguration of the Eucharist. They didn't understand. His death on the cross. Dismay. They didn't yet really truly believe and understand that his death was necessary. His missing body at the tomb on the morning of the third day. Now their beliefs were shattered. No longer the Messiah, He was reduced to "a prophet mighty in deed." They had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. There was nothing left. What a terrible day that must have been. But then something happened that evening Walking on the Road to Emmaus.

As his two disciples walked and talked and worse, heartbroken, and lost because of his death He joined them on the walk to Emmaus. He was curious about what they were talking and asked them. They were incredulous that he didn't know what had happened that day so they told him. He admonished them for not understanding and then took the time on the walk to Emmaus to once again, explain all that he had taught. They didn't recognize him yet. In time their hearts were filled with joy and hope, and being reminded of what he had taught. They said "stay with us" because they didn't want Him to leave. Still not yet understanding. At the table when He broke bread and gave the blessing, their eyes were suddenly opened, and they realized who He was. And at this, He vanished from sight. It took His reappearance again and again and to hundreds of people before the realization finally came to be that He was the risen Lord!

He had broken for us the chains of death, both physically in this world and spiritually for He had reopened the gates of heaven to us, and that His gift of His real body and blood would be with us until the end of time so that we would never again be alone.

We only have to believe in Him.

