

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”

¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”

²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1. Read Luke 24:1-12 – What did the disciples think of the women’s story?

What did Peter do? Don’t you find it curious he ‘went home’ v. 12

2. What strikes you about our text?

3. What might the phrase ‘come near’ indicate? V. 15 - see Luke 10:9

4. v. 16 notes ‘there eyes were kept from recognizing him’ – How might our eyes be kept from recognizing Jesus?

5. Is there a difference between perception and recognition? When in life have you moved from perception to recognition? In regards to certain people/relationships/your faith?

6. How important is it for you to be in discussion about your faith? v. 17, v. 25

7. We don’t hear about Cleopas anywhere else in the New Testament. Don’t you find it interesting he is mentioned here and who is he with? What might it mean for us?

8. Where is Emmaus – note that Cleopas had already arranged to stay there.

Suggested answers.

1. – thought it was ‘an idle tale’

Peter ran to the tomb – but went home – I wonder why he didn’t run to tell the others like the women did?

2.

3. A tie to the kingdom of God – the work of God has come near in person!

4. Sometimes we too are so caught up in the events around us (think Covid19 or previous life events – *see sermon from 4/19* – that we fail to see Jesus in our midst) our eyes cannot see that God is with us.

5.

6. It is often in small groups that our faith grows the most. Others can help us to not only perceive but to recognize things we may have not realized before in regards to Christ in our life. After we are able to gather again – might you consider connecting at Christ Hamilton with a small group? Interested but not sure how – call the office!!

7. He must have been one of the inner circle – he knows the reports of the women and they know details of life with Jesus – how else would they respond in the way they did when they recognized Jesus? Some have suggested Cleopas’ wife could have been one that accompanied him – how would this interpretation change or challenge your view of this text?

8. Emmaus is 38 miles down the road from Christ Hamilton! Biblically we are not sure – several locations have been suggested: Nicopolis, Abu Ghosh, El-Qubeibeh, Colonia. Goggle them for more research on your own.

Last thought: Perhaps the elusive nature of Emmaus offers its own lesson — that what happened on that day is more important than where it happened, and that encounters with the risen Christ are not confined to one time or place. Not having Cleopas mentioned anywhere else except in this text – might call us to think of ourselves as Cleopas’ – when do our hearts burn within us to tell the story of Jesus and his love? And do we actually do it? Even unnamed disciples have done it for centuries! Who have these unnamed disciples been for you in your faith journey?