

Recognized In the Breaking of the Bread

Promise: Jesus Comes to Us in Word and Sacrament

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-12; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35
(Third Sunday of Easter, 4/26/20)

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. — v 35

Lead In – Jesus’ appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus occurs in Luke’s Gospel Account. And Luke had a good reason for including this appearance of the Risen Christ. And his likely reason speaks powerfully as to how you and I can benefit from our Lord’s promise to be present with his followers to the end of the age. As we dig into his telling of the account, I believe you will be greatly comforted by what we discover...

I. A Stranger Joins Two Disciples On the Road

- After the week’s celebration of Passover...
- Jesus unbeknownst draws near...eyes were kept!
- The master catechist begins by asking them...

II. Plenty of Time for Thorough Bible Study

- The good confession that don’t yet believe...
- The master catechist employs a reprimand...
- Then beginning with Moses and all the...

III. As Evening Draws Near, A Most Amazing Thing!

- In offering hospitality, they receive the Lord!
- Guest becomes host, and then... eyes opened!
- Vanished from their sight, but not from them!

Parting Shot – We think Luke wrote his account sometime around 55-60 AD, that is, 20-25 years after Jesus death and resurrection. And Luke’s orderly account that he writes was dependent on his investigation of eye-witness reports. We also know that he was a traveling companion with the Apostle Paul on missionary journeys. It is very likely that Luke includes this account to bolster the practice and confidence already in the Church of the importance of gathering with other Christians for teaching, fellowship, “the breaking of bread”, and the prayers; in short, especially for Word and Sacrament. And just so, Jesus remains with us, establishing and nurturing our faith onto life eternal.

Cleopas – likely the Cleopas of Jn 19:25, brother of Joseph, and his son Simeon, 2nd bishop of Jerusalem Church.

Mk 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Jn 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Luke 24:13-35 ESV

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even 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.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus had blessed and broken bread in the feeding of the 5,000 and at the Last Supper when he instituted Holy Communion (Mt 14:19; Mt 26:26). And even if this wasn’t Holy Communion, the community that gathers for HC would remember...

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

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