

3 4-26-20

### Just a Closer Walk with Thee

In Sunday's gospel Jesus takes a walk with two of his disciples. Actually, the two disciples of Jesus were fleeing Jerusalem on Easter Sunday. They were scared, disillusioned, and shattered at the events that took place. The brutal death of Jesus plunged them into fear and despair. Their dreams about Jesus being the long-awaited Messiah were shattered. They looked at Good Friday from every possible angle that they could think of, and still could not make any sense of it all. They were fleeing from Jerusalem in fear.

Then Jesus joined them. He showed great sensitivity by joining them as a stranger. People often find it easier to talk to a stranger. Jesus invited them to tell their story, and they began to pour out their sad story to him. When they spoke, Jesus listened patiently and lovingly so they could let all they needed to let out.

What Jesus did was "accompany" them. He was there to walk with them through their sorrow. Accompaniment is something very gentle, very non-threatening. It is something necessary for a trust to be built up, so "communion" could become a possibility. Jesus did not force the truth upon them, for sometimes people are not ready to hear the truth. Jesus waited for the right moment to help them accept their reality.

Only when the disciples had finished their story did Jesus begin to talk. And he took up the story where they had left off. He opened their minds to a new way of looking at the Scriptures, and what was said about the Messiah. He showed them how all the prophets had foretold that the Messiah would suffer and die, and thus enter into glory. So, the death of Jesus was far from being the end of a dream. It was precisely the way in which the dream was to be realized.

Jesus helped them put their story into the bigger story of God's plan of salvation.

Jesus helped those two disciples turn their lives around. They were going away from Jerusalem. They had lost faith. Their lives did not make sense. But after encountering Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem, and they resumed their discipleship of their Risen Lord.

And, they finally recognized the Lord in the breaking of the bread. That's what made it all make sense.

The Risen Lord wants to do the same for us.

When we are on the road to our own Emmaus—when we are a bit disillusioned with life, having doubts in our faith, feeling the frustration of life—Jesus comes to walk with us. And he is ready to explain God's promises to us, and invites us to place our life story into the bigger story of God's plan of salvation. And, we are to recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread—in Holy Communion. And, then, we are resume our discipleship and witness of the Lord with our lives.