

MONDAY, MARCH 5

ROAD TO EMMAUS: OPEN EYES (LUKE 24)

Are there times when we do not recognize the voice, the work, the presence of Jesus, even though these may be right in front of us?

On the road to Emmaus, two men spoke of events, of meaning, of “hearsay,” but they did not recognize the one to whom they spoke. Jesus, in the flesh, walked along the road with two men. First, he listened to them, and then he spoke. Jesus spoke of the plan (vv. 25-27) and then showed them the power of the Holy God to carry out God’s will (v. 30).

The men invited Jesus to go on with them, to stay with them. It was not until Jesus broke the bread that “their eyes were opened and they recognized him” (v. 31). This symbol of Christ’s life as a sacrifice teaches us who Jesus really is — obedient to the Father, giving all out of love. These two men learned about the Master from the Master. This glimpse into the person of Jesus surely impacted them greatly.

In our normal, everyday discussions, how often do we talk of events, of meaning, of “hearsay,” but fail to recognize Jesus, and miss the plan and the power of the Holy God? Jesus broke the bread, he gave his life as a sacrifice for our sins. Do we recognize, truly comprehend, this gift?

Do we invite Jesus to walk with us — into places of uncertainty, fear, questioning? Jesus did not promise us that we would be without pain, without suffering, without loss. Jesus did promise us that he would be with us, walking beside us, through it all. At times, we may become so focused on other events — whether they be pain or loss, or simply distractions in our world — that we do not look up to see Jesus there before us, walking with us. We have read that he is there, and our heads know it, but our hearts are not open to seeing him. Do we give him the space to reveal himself as Master? Do we listen? Jesus himself wants to open our eyes to who he truly is so we can get a glimpse of his face.