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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

May 2, 2010

Luke 24 The Road to Emmaus

¹³⁻¹⁶That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?" ¹⁹⁻²⁴He said, "What has happened?"

Greetings and Blessings,

Did you ever wonder about why these disciples didn't recognize Jesus as he walked and talked with them on the Emmaus road? I've heard many suggestions as to why this happened but many of them just don't satisfy my mind. For example: He came up from behind, their eyes were blinded by their sorrow, they never really lifted their heads to look directly at him. But as they walked further and talked with him, and as they arrived at their dwelling and must have looked more directly at him to invite him in and offered him a meal, these weak explanations seem so inadequate.

The same sort of thing happens in our own day. Many people have heard all about Jesus, may even have attended church, and they don't recognize who he is; the Son of God, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, the one who is able to forgive all sin and bring us to a loving relationship with the eternal God. What does it take for a person to recognize Jesus? Even when Jesus asks them what it is that they were talking about and they go on to relate the account of his death and resurrection they still don't come to recognize him.

Before his death Jesus predicted that this kind of blindness would occur. He also informed them of the solution. As Jesus told the story of the rich man and who when he ended up in hell asked for one to be sent back to warn his friends the reply was: 'If they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they're not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead.' (Luke 17: 31)

The promise given was for a helper to come who would reveal all these things to them. This was the helper needed for them to recognize Jesus and the meaning behind all his teachings. This is the only way anyone comes to faith today. This was the gift God sent to all who came to have faith in him in the past and it is the only means by which anyone come to faith in our day. Do you have a desire to know God more deeply? Do you seek to find his personal will for your life? Do you find your present circumstances restricting and wonder how you can still in your present situation have a more complete and fulfilling Christian life? The very fact that you have these wishes and yearnings is a sign that the promised helper, God's Holy Spirit, is already at work within you. 'No one can come to me unless the Father has called him' says Jesus. No one can find faith except he receives the gift of faith through the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice and give thanks. The very fact that you have been led to read this letter to learn more of faith is a sign that God is at work in you.

Give thanks and be blessed for you ARE loved.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin