



E A S T E R S U N D A Y

LUKE 24 : 13 - 35

NIV: Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped he was the one who was going to Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took

place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared before their site. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"



They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

This Lent we have been exploring the power of small and simple things. We have discovered that the small and simple story of the well made well is packed with wisdom for the church today. We have discovered that a bowl filled with salt can heal a city. We have discovered that sometimes the greatest of miracles are those small and simple miracles, the ones that history forgets. We have discovered that a pump and a purifier have the power to transform a community for generations to come. Now, on this Easter Sunday, we discover that these same lessons are baked into the Resurrection story itself.

On Easter morning, the women went to the tomb and discovered that it was empty. Two messengers in dazzling clothes appeared to tell them that Jesus had risen. The women told the other disciples what had happened, and they were filled with amazement, confusion, and wonder.

In that moment of confusion, some of the disciples decided that the best course of action was to get out of town. They walked out of Jerusalem on the way to a place called Emmaus. As they were walking, a stranger appeared and walked beside them. The stranger saw that they were agitated and sad. He asked them what was the matter. So they told him. They told him about Jesus, how they had hoped he would be the one to save God's people, how his enemies had crucified him, and how the tomb was empty - they told him everything.

Then, Jesus spoke to them. He interpreted the scriptures, and told them that it was necessary for God's plan to unfold in this way. When they reached Emmaus, they could not bear to be parted from him. They invited him to come in and share a meal with them. He entered their home. They sat at the table. And then something strange happened. As though he were the host, he took the loaf of bread, blessed it, and broke it. In that instant, they suddenly recognized Jesus, who had been walking beside them all along.

How amazing is it when we finally open our eyes and see that Christ has been there all along? Waiting for us to finally open our eyes and hearts, so that he may reveal himself to us and welcome us into his family!

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS TO MINISTRY

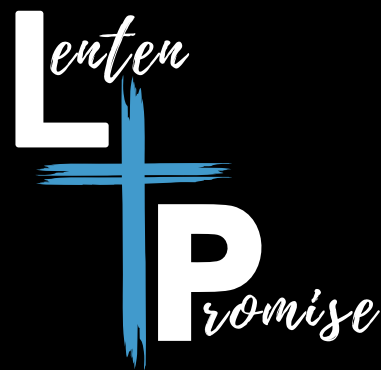
This story is the reminder that we can talk about scriptures and theology all day long, but the real power of faith is the moment when we find ourselves face to face with Jesus. It is when we pass the cup and break the bread, believing in his sacrifice and entering into the body of Christ.

God is present in the small and simple things. God appears to us in small and simple ways. God invites us to discover that sometimes these very small, simple things have the power to work the deepest healing in our hurting world.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

May we be the light of the world through recognizing and knowing our Savior. Let's live a life that exemplifies our relationship with Christ, we are no longer strangers but intimate members of his family!

- How has your life been changed by the revelation of Jesus?
- How can you use your new-found identity in Christ to impact the world in small, simple ways?



M E R C I
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T H A N K Y O U
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G R A C I A S

Here at Clean Water for the World, in all the languages we speak (French, Haitian Creole, English, Quiché, Spanish), we want to express our deepest gratitude for walking along with us on this profound journey of spending forty days going deeper in our journey with God.

It is a rare moment in time to come together like this, across the world, to live out our faith, supporting our walks with the Lord, and providing living water to our brothers and sisters.

