

Luke 24:13-27 - A "hidden" Jesus eventually revealed

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¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over 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 took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed 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 him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

How often does Jesus reveal himself in our lives, only for us to completely miss it?

In this passage, we meet two of Jesus' followers who have lost hope. They had been waiting for the Messiah to come, yearning for the prophecies to be fulfilled, but buried those hopes as they saw Jesus crucified. On this day, they are walking away from Jerusalem, engaged in discussing the past days' events, expressing their sadness, and deeply feeling that loss of hope. Their minds are preoccupied, perhaps trying to reason through recent events, unable to comprehend them.

What strikes me in the face of this lost hope is not Jesus' power to open his followers' eyes, so that they realize his true identity. Don't get me wrong, that offer of renewed hope is crucial. But instead, I am drawn to ponder how much I resemble those travelers walking towards Emmaus, before their eyes are opened. Perhaps they are too involved in discussion, or too spent from the emotional disappointment, but somehow they are totally blind to Jesus' identity.

In the same way, I think, we are often blind today. I wonder how often we miss an opportunity to experience God's hope because we are somehow blind to Jesus' presence along that road to Emmaus? I wonder how we can best invite Jesus to reveal himself to us, like he did to his followers that day?

As we journey along that road, may we learn to claim that hope - the hope grounded in a God who does continue to actively reveal himself to us.