

LECTIO DIVINA

Luke 24:13–35 (NRSV)

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then 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?” He 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and 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. Some 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.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread”.

Lectio Divina Reflection

- Jesus came near and walked with them.

The two disciples were preoccupied by recent events, trying to make sense of them when Jesus came to them and walked by their side. He did not wait for them to ask for help. He knew what they needed. Jesus walks by our side too. His presence is with us always even in difficult times when we feel alone.

- They did not recognise Jesus.

Jesus was a stranger to them. When do we fail to recognise Jesus in the people we meet? Sometimes we are blind to those in need; blinded by our own concerns, prejudices and lack of generosity. We forget Jesus said when “you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40)

- “The women astounded us”

Attending and listening respectfully to others is a necessary Christian value. Listen especially to the women whom God often favours. Women’s voices tend to be ignored or devalued.

- They were “slow of heart to believe.”

Jesus was straightforward with them, even blunt. He did not mince words. How slow are we to believe in the Lord? What do we need to wake us up to His word? How strong is our faith especially when times are hard? We need to practice patience, leave our anxieties behind and trust in “the slow work of God.”

- Jesus taught them about His life, suffering and death and the scriptures.

Jesus speaks to us today through the scriptures especially the Gospels that reveal his actions and words. Are we listening? What efforts do we put in to learn about Jesus and all he taught us? Do we read the word of God and other spiritual works daily? Do we read commentaries on the scriptures? They are gifts to help us hear the voice of God. How do we respond? Are we “doers of the word”?

- Finally “Their eyes were opened and they recognised him”

It was the gift of the Eucharist that opened their eyes and made the difference!

ORATIO

Dear Lord

Open my eyes to see you in others without judgement.

Open my ears to hear your word.

Open my mind to understand the path you would have me follow.

Open my heart to help me love my neighbour.

Strengthen me in faith and help me always trust in you.

Thank you Lord for all your gifts.