

HOMILIES FROM THE HERMITAGE

CORONA 18

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS; THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The Gospel of Sunday 3 of Easter takes us back to Easter Day. Two disciples are on the road to Emmaus. The two were wending a miserable journey (a short Sabbath trek). They were pondering the sadness of Jesus' passion and death and as they walked Jesus Himself came among them (but they did not recognize Him). In question and answer Jesus works through the mystery explaining through Moses and the prophets the Scriptures which led to Jesus' Passion and Death. 'It was necessary that Jesus should suffer these things and so enter into His glory.

As it became evening the disciples invited the 'stranger' to have a meal with them. And at table He took the bread and broke and blessed it and gave it to them. **And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.** They went back to Jerusalem and told the disciples what had happened and they acknowledged by saying, 'Yes, He has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon.

This is a marvellous and plain story of Jesus' victory and others realizing it. A few points:

1. One of those on the road was Clopas. It would not be impossible for the other to have been his wife. Mrs. Clopas (Mary) was at the Cross (Mary wife of Clopas) and therefore would have been one of those who saw Jesus die and therefore one who would have been unlikely to recognize Him as alive.
2. The understanding of the Scriptures takes time and this story shown how the truth appears bit by bit to the point of the recognition of the need 'That Jesus had to suffer these things **and so** enter into His glory.
3. The two disciples gave 'the stranger' hospitality—a measure of best practice among the Jews. If they had not offered Jesus the shared meal they would not have had the wondrous acknowledge of Jesus in the breaking of the blessing and sharing the bread.
4. The Eucharist. The Mass was regularly in the early Church as 'the breaking of bread'.

Jesus teaches us to welcome in all whom we deal ('what you do for with the least of me you do for me'). Truly so in this event when the disciples welcome 'a stranger' and truly find that they have welcomed Jesus. It is also central in our worship that when we celebrate the Eucharist we most truly welcome and receive Jesus 'in the breaking of break' Let us never forget this when each time we celebrate His Last Supper.

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