

Luke 24:13-35 - Recognizing Jesus by Bread

INTRO - Remarkable passage recording the evening events of resurrection day – seen by women, 11 not believe their report - Peter & John run to tomb... Two talking and walking and Jesus joins them incognito. Jesus listens/ rebukes them and then explains the scripture to them. He stays and eats. When He breaks the bread they recognize Him and then He vanishes. They go report about the raising & the recognizing.

Our experience with the risen Lord is a little different than those early disciples and yet there are some major similarities. Jesus was revealed to them (and us) by the Scriptures and Jesus was revealed to them (and us) by the breaking of bread. We are preparing ourselves for the breaking of bread at the end of this service (or the peeling of the top plastic layer exposing the styrofoamish bread-like substance inside ☺). The quality of the bread is not the main issue – recognizing Jesus by the bread is. I pray we do as fellowship with Him around His Table. Remember by Recognition, Imagination and Participation

REMEMBER BY RECOGNITION

- Jesus told us to observe the Lord's Supper and we do this in remembrance of Him
 - We are prone to forget Ps. 103:2 should not forget HIM – remember
- Luke 24 records when some disciples didn't really forget Jesus but they couldn't recognize Jesus
 - They were blinded to the reality right in front of them.
- They were despondent because of the crucifixion that happened three days earlier
 - They had high hope about Jesus of Nazareth but their hopes were dashed by His death
- Jesus Himself joined the journey and the conversation Luke 24:15
 - He was incognito. They were kept from recognizing Him Luke 24:16
 - He played coy. Jesus questioned them without informing them Luke 24:17-19
- Jesus draws out their wounded hearts as they begin to explain the dire situation
 - Jesus the Nazarene - Prophet from God - mighty in word and deed
 - Sentenced to death and crucified
 - They had hoped He was the One to redeem Israel. It had been 3 days
 - Some women had told them that the tomb was empty and had seen angels who said that Jesus was alive. They didn't believe the report – Mark 16:11-13
 - Two went to investigate- tomb was empty – but they didn't see Jesus
 - The risen Jesus was talking to them but they didn't see Jesus
- Jesus explains to them that the death/resurrection of the Messiah was part of the Plan
 - He turns to Moses and the prophets to explain the current situation. Luke 24:25-27
- Jesus acted like He was going farther on His journey but they begged Him to stay
 - He acquiesced to their request. Jesus reclined with them at a table
 - He took bread He blessed it He broke it and gave it to them
 - At that moment they recognized Him – Luke 24:31 - and He vanished from their sight
- Wouldn't you have liked to be there to see their reaction?
 - Just 4 days earlier Jesus had reclined with them, broke bread and said, "this is My body"
 - Guess that as He gave the bread they could see the nail pierced hand - recognized!

- It would have been great to be there...but great to be here...our situation not so dissimilar
 - We recognize Jesus in the Bible
 - Hearts burn as Jesus is revealed to us in scripture Luke 24:32
 - We recognize Jesus in OT and NT (John 5:39b)
 - We recognize Jesus in the Bread
 - Luke 24:35
 - Jesus is hidden from most in this minuscule meal. Can you see Him?

REMEMBER BY IMAGINATION

Brian Moore was a 17 year old high school student that was killed in a car accident. Right before that tragedy he had delivered an essay for an assignment for class. He was happy with his work and told his parents it was the best thing he had ever written (though he actually may not have actually authored it). The subject matter was “what heaven is like”. After his death his parents found the hand written essay and framed it to hang among the family portraits. The following is a portrait and imagination of what heaven is like.

Brian’s Essay (by Joshua Harris)

With your imagination can you see Him in a room full of index cards that record all your secret evils?

Can you recognize Him as He reviews all your rebellion?

Can you see Him write His name over your sins?Owning your sins and giving you His righteousness?

Then you are prepared to “Do this in Remembrance of Him”

REMEMBER BY PARTICIPATION

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 as the element packets are gathered

Open Communion

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Discern the Body

Receive and Rejoice