

A Different and Beautiful Life

Rev. Rick Bergh

Jesus promise is to companion us in our grief and loss. He wants to carry our burden. Much of our existing grief seems to be focused on the unknown and preoccupation with the future – we forget that life is a precious gift *today*. Grief, like a giant magnet, pulls us toward an obsession to focus on what we no longer have, rather than being grateful for the blessings we do have.

When Jesus met the disciples on the road, they were sad and focused on what was no longer part of their lives. Might I say, they were grieving. Jesus was gone – his body had disappeared was the word on the street. What would the future be like now for these disciples?

Then Jesus shows up in the middle of their grief and asks them to view their circumstances through a different lens.

On Sanctity of Life Sunday, consider these scriptural truths and add them into your future when life seems uncertain and unknown. Read Luke 24:13-35 and reflect upon these questions and the accompanying scripture. Imagine Jesus engaging you in your uncertainty and sadness. When you are sad or fearful of the unknown, what message are you are hearing from Jesus through these scriptures that you can count on?

- 1) *And he said to them, “What things?” - Luke 24:19a*
 - **Is Jesus asking us to return and stand firm on a specific message that is most significant about who he is and what he has done?**

- 2) *So, they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going further. – Luke 24:28*
 - **Is Jesus hoping that we will invite him to draw closer to us?**

- 3) *And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. – Luke 24:31*
 - **Is Jesus reminding us that even though there are times that you may question his presence, we can be certain that he is always with us through the Holy Spirit?**

In today’s Gospel, we are invited to continue that relationship with Jesus just as those disciples were on the road to Emmaus. The Good Shepherd is still alive and very available.

Jesus is calling. A door is open. A relationship desired. An abundant life promised.

Even in the midst of COVID -19, we can experience a different and beautiful life when we allow Jesus to engage us on the road we travel and when we open the door to an ongoing relationship with our friend and saviour.

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