

Recognizing the Risen Lord

Monday, 4/12/10 – Read Luke 24:13-16

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: This week we're going to walk through the "Emmaus Road" story in Luke 24, taking just a few verses a day. (Both last Sunday's sermon & next Sunday's will be based on this passage.) ... One of the most remarkable features of the resurrection appearances of Jesus was that he was not immediately recognized. (Remember that Mary Magdalene did not initially recognize him outside the tomb.) ... The Lord often shows up in our lives unannounced and unrecognized! We are to live expectantly -- anticipating that Jesus, risen from the dead, will walk with us on our way. How would you live differently if you expected Jesus to walk with you on your way -- even when you didn't recognize him at first? What one specific thing would you do differently?

Tuesday, 4/13/10 – Read Luke 24:17-21

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Notice verse 21. These two disciples had hoped that Jesus would be "the one." But now that Jesus had been crucified, their hope was gone,. ... Isn't that the way we often live? We set our hope on God and then give up hope when circumstances don't match our expectations. But God is not defeated. God will find a way to achieve God's purposes. ... Is there some problem or issue in your life where you sometimes give up hope? What would it be like to live by a hope that knows that God will find a way?

Wednesday, 4/14/10 – Read Luke 24:22-27

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The resurrection of Jesus was astounding, totally unexpected -- even by those who had been close to him. ... When has God astounded you? When has God done something beyond your wildest dreams? ... Think about your life right now. Is there some area in which you have given up hope? Take that to God in your prayer today. Ask God to help you stay open to the unexpected and astounding things that God may yet do.

Thursday, 4/15/10 – Read Luke 24:28-29

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Sometimes we encounter people in our lives whose very presence is so compelling that we want to prolong our time with them. Their presence elevates us, inspires us. There was something about this stranger that was powerfully attractive to these two disciples. ... Who have been the people in your life who were compelling and inspiring? Has there been anyone who seemed to make the Risen Jesus present and real? ... Sometimes the Lord comes to us through others, and we may not quite recognize it, but there is a presence that is powerfully attractive. Where have you seen that in your own life? ... If one of those people is still alive, how about writing him or her a note to tell them that they have made the Lord known to you.

Friday, 4/16/10 – Read Luke 24:30-31

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: It is, as it were, the punch line of this whole story that Jesus is recognized when they are gathered around the table -- when this stranger takes, blesses, breaks, and gives the bread. Do you recognize the Risen Lord when you gather around the Lord's table for communion with your sisters and brothers in faith?

Saturday, 4/17/10 – Read Luke 24:32

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: What's that experience like -- when your heart burns within you? ... It's interesting that these disciples are really conscious of this **in hindsight**, as they look back on that talk along the way -- **after** they have recognized him. ... Are there some points in your life which seem more powerful to you now as you look back on them? Makes some notes for yourself about those experiences.

Sunday, 4/18/10 – Read Luke 24:33-35

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: It is important to share our powerful experiences of Christ with others who will understand! Notice that these two disciples immediately go all the way back to Jerusalem to find "the eleven" and to tell them what happened. ... Is there an experience that you need to share? Is there some faithful person to whom you could tell your story? Will you make time to do that this week or sometime real soon?

My Faith Journal, April 11, 2010

Practicing Recognition

What do I hear God saying to me today?

Luke 24:13-35

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.