

Recognizing the Unknown

Monday, 4/19/10 – Read Luke 24:13-35

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: Albert Schweitzer concluded his scholarly study of Jesus with the line: “He comes to us as one unknown ...” and “...they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.” ... This week we’ll explore the ways that God arrives in life as a surprise, as one who is “unknown.” And we’ll explore how we may discover in our own experience who Christ is. ... Start with this question: Do you have an experience of God? Is God real in your own experience? ... Today think back over your life and make a list of some of those moments when you were aware of God’s presence. Maybe you were only aware of them in hindsight. That’s fine. Include them too. We’ll refer back to your list through the week.

Tuesday, 4/20/10 – Read Acts 9:1-9 [&10-19]

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Saul thought he knew God. He was sure that he knew what God wanted. He was so sure that he set out to stomp out this deviant new “Way,” the followers of Jesus. ... And then Saul was confronted by the Risen Jesus. Not knowing it was Jesus, he asked: “Who are you, Lord?” ... When God shows up in our experience, it’s important ask: “Who are you, Lord?” ... When you pray, do you pray your questions? Do you pray those things you don’t understand? ... Try it today. Look back over your list of experiences from Monday; what questions do those experiences raise for you? As you pray, bring one of your questions into your prayer ... and ask God! ... And then watch – to see if some discovery happens over the next few days.

Wednesday, 4/21/10 – Read Exodus 3:1-12

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Moses encounter with God was full of surprises. He discovered that God cared passionately about the slavery and the oppression of the people. ... Have you ever been surprised by God? Have you ever discovered that God was concerned about something? Look back over your list of experiences of God and take note of when you have been surprised. Write down your realizations.

Thursday, 4/22/10 – Read 1 Kings 19:1-13a

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: What do you expect God to be like? When the Hebrew prophet Elijah encountered God on Mount Horeb (Sinai), there was a mighty wind, an earthquake, and a fire. We might expect that those powerful things would reveal God’s presence. But God was not in the wind or the earthquake or the fire. God was in the sound of “sheer silence.” ... How do you expect God to appear? What do you expect to be the signs of God’s presence? Are you prepared to discover that God comes in a form you didn’t expect? ... Looking back, have you ever missed God’s presence because God didn’t come in a form you expected?

Friday, 4/23/10 – Read John 1:43-51

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: When Nathanael was told that his friends thought they’d found the messiah -- and that is was Jesus of Nazareth -- Nathanael replied: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” ... No one would have expected Jesus to be The One through whom the God would be known. It was those who allowed Jesus into their experience (like Nathanael): they discovered the Divine Presence in Jesus. ... Do you limit

God? Are there people, cultures, ethnicities, regions, economic classes that you automatically discount? Do you automatically think, "Nothing good can come out of _____ [fill in the blank]"?

Saturday, 4/24/10 – Read John 4:7-42

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Pay attention to the conclusion of this wonderful story, verses 39-42. This woman was an unlikely messenger to announce the arrival of the messiah. And yet a number of people accepted her testimony. But "many more" came to trust Jesus when they heard him for themselves. ... Some of us have to "hear him for ourselves." Some of us have to discover in our own experience who he is. ... But sometimes we won't even trust our own experience, even when we feel the Loving Presence of God. Has there been a time when you weren't sure you could trust your own experience of God? Why did you discount your own experience?

Sunday, 4/25/10 – Read Mark 8:27-33

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The gospel of Mark presents this question as the central question of his gospel: "Who do you say that I am?" ... What's your answer? How do you come to your answer? Is it something somebody told you? Is it something you read, maybe from the Bible? Trusting others' word or your own reading is not wrong -- if it rings true for you! ... But there may be more. Peter could respond because he had experienced Jesus himself! ... Have you experienced the Living Christ yourself? How would you answer the question out of your own experience?

My Faith Journal, April 18, 2009

Easter #3

Incognito

What do I hear God saying to me today?

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.