

**SALT CO.
6.9.24**

**Via Lucis: Following the Way of the Resurrection
Station IV- Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus**

Now that very day two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. While they were talking and debating these things, Jesus himself approached and began to accompany them (but their eyes were kept from recognizing him). Then he said to them, "What are these matters you are discussing so intently as you walk along?" And they stood still, looking sad... Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things written about himself in all the scriptures.

Luke 24:13-17, 27

WELCOME TO THE SALT CO!

- To first timers
- Our YA friends!
- To those online

When we say "Seasoned Adults" we mean this in two ways:

SEASONED AS IN...

Chronologically-- we've lived a lot of seasons of life

BUT more importantly-

Spiritually--- ...like when sodium and chlorine combined make SALT... by the grace of God, when we receive Christ into our lives, we become like THIS [gesture: one hand—two hands—joined together]

We become something beautiful, a *new creation*...transformed and transforming for the rest of our lives.

JESUS CALLS US THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

It's one way to describe our calling...one *from which we never retire!*

So, we gather at the SALT CO—situated alongside Route 60+ where we pull over-to share some stories with each other of following and encountering our Lord on our journeys—

We do this to **refresh**, retool and REFUEL...for the ever- changing terrain on Route 60+.

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION (VIA LUCIS)

This Spring we have been exploring the Via Lucis, Latin for the Way of Light, following the Stations of the Resurrection- a relatively new practice that complements and completes the 14 Stations of the Cross. The Via Lucis comprises 14 Stations of Jesus's post resurrection encounters before he ascended (HE IS RISEN!!), all based in the witness of the Gospels, the book of Acts, and Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. (See the Via Lucis cards on your tables). This morning we're coming to the Fourth Station. But first...

Let's get ready to step into our next Station of the Resurrection! Let's sing! Marcus leads us!

It's possible to look right at something, and not see it. Take this Magic Eye picture for example. What do you see?

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/565131453220112772/>

Don't these things just drive you nuts? I'm still working on it. My friend tells me this is the scene at Golgotha, from a side view...

Turns out doing Magic Eyes requires resting the eyes, not straining, allowing your whole brain to engage, takes some time, practice...nice analogy hinting at some of what it takes to really see some things right in front of us.

Or people.

A member of our staff at a church where I served was at a huge rally in Kenya. He stood right next to Bono, the leader of at that time the greatest known rock band in the world (U2) and did not know who he was. Bono had to ask him, *"You don't know who I am, do you?"* My friend didn't have context to know this man. He didn't have the back story on him or his mission which was to raise major money and awareness for the AIDS crisis in Africa. By the same token our friend was WELL known and connected in Kenya so he said: NO...and I don't think you know who I am either. Then as they talked a bit more it dawned on Moses...and maybe on Bono the significance of their meeting.

Jesus said,

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of age."

Matthew 28:20

If this is so, do we recognize Him? This is the subject of the Fourth Station we are looking into so that we can see Him. These Stations of the Resurrection are like windows...

We'll use a way we practiced at our last 3 SALT CO gatherings...

1. To start we'll just get settled and quiet.
I'll read the scripture for this station, three times.
2. Then, we'll display a rendering of the scene by Rembrandt on the screens and invite you to gaze on the scene for a few minutes.
If you want a closer look at the image, the table guides will also share the printed a copy provided in an envelope for each table.
3. I'll ask you to write, or draw, or sketch, or list what you're getting from peering through this third window
4. Then we'll leave several minutes for you to have a chance to share some of your thoughts and impressions with each other.

Folks online at home our SALT CO team would love to hear your thoughts too-you can email them to me at dick.thompson@calvarywestlake.org.

Ready? Let's step into the Way of Light.

5. Get yourself settled. I'll be reading from the Gospel of John. This first time through-let's just take in Luke's description:

Now that very day two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. While they were talking and debating these things, Jesus himself approached and began to accompany them (but their eyes were kept from recognizing

him). Then he said to them, "What are these matters you are discussing so intently as you walk along?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have happened there in these days?" He said to them, "What things?" "The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene," they replied, "a man who, with his powerful deeds and words, proved to be a prophet before God and all the people; and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free. Not only this, but it is now the third day since these things happened. Furthermore, some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back and said they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Then some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him. So he said to them, "You foolish people—how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things written about himself in all the scriptures.

Luke 24:13-27

In the second reading imagine yourself on this road. Feel the sun, the movement of air. Feel the ground under your feet as you walk. See yourself walking alongside these two when someone joins you. As you listen in on their conversation, notice their tone of voice, the look on their faces, how they hold their bodies.

In the third reading, notice what you are feeling and where you feel this in your body. What thoughts are coming to your mind? What

do you want to say to the two. What do you want to say to the Stranger? What are your questions?

I invite you now to consider this art. What do you notice? Use the art in the envelopes if needed.

https://www.etsy.com/listing/1677225800/jesus-on-the-road-to-emmaus-digital?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=road+to+emmaus&ref=sr_gallery-1-6&sts=1&dd=1&content_source=c8c6cd7cbeead948b21039721daf4ef4dc481cee%3A1677225800&organic_search_click=1

Now take a minute or two to write, draw, list, express with key words what it is that you are seeing, thinking, feeling, wondering- How does what you are seeing make you curious? Your questions are important!

TABLE TALK –

1. Share your name and an example of not seeing something that's right in front of you.
2. What did you notice in this reading that you had not seen before? What surprised you?
3. What would be like for you to join on this walk to Emmaus? What would you be wanting to say, or ask of the two companions, of Jesus?
4. What do you think you might do to pursue some of your questions?

Why do they not know this is Jesus' walking alongside them? Luke wants us to ask this question. It leads to asking why is it we do not recognize His presence with US? One commentary puts it, "They do not recognize Him because of the 'lost powers of true humanity'". John

1:10. We are “disabled”. How? Last time we talked about how Mary’s grief fogged her vision. Cleopas and his wife also in grief, (in my opinion- check John 19:25) had no CATEGORY for this.

They are trying to wrap their full intellectual/emotional capacities around the tension the dissonance inside- of who they experienced Jesus to be -and the tragic end they witnessed.

“We had hoped” is our indicator of this condition. What had they hoped? That He would be the one to set Israel free (the Greek term used here is LUTROUSTHAI= deliver, set free, liberate, redeem). How had they envisioned this should go? What did they expect?

They said, ***“Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”***

Maybe their answer gets us thinking about what we had hoped. What we expected. So many things. For how our families would be. For our careers. Our marriages. Our nation. With time, over many seasons, we come to know the experience of “dis-illusionment”, don’t we? We feel grief at the loss of things we had hoped. It’s part of our story.

Over time, over the years maybe it begins to dawn on us that we look for what we expect to see. Which affects our ability to see what’s really going on.

When we are learning anything new either we assimilate what we are seeing- we filter through what we already know, or sometimes we must accommodate- we have to tear down some of what we had assumed or presumed to make way, make space for the construction of a whole new way of knowing.

What they were seeing was going require the re-arranging of neural categories for thinking about everything This is almost literally “mind blowing”- beyond anything they could ask, think or imagine!

In this Station we can see how Jesus gently comes alongside these two to help them-once again to have hope, as with Mary outside the tomb- asking good questions inviting them to open their hearts to talk honestly about the experience of things not making “sense”, not coming together in an, expected, “ordered” way.

We can all learn from our Lord here in how we can help one another. Jesus begins, it seems by helping them know that *they* are seen.

We all want to be seen. So does He.

Jesus’ questions and their open hearted sharing makes way for loving “healthy correction”. Jesus can now say,

“Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

It is a real problem for us too. We think we know what the Bible says. We assume we know what the “gospel” is. We assume this is about making sure that when we die we’ll go to “heaven”. That’s true, but that is NOT the gospel!! Nor is this our purpose. And that assumption can affect our capacity to see Him today!

So Jesus opens their hearts with His questions. Then He opens their minds to the Scriptures to help them see what happened in Jerusalem as the *fulfillment* of God’s promise, and, consequently, what He is UP to now. *And, therefore, what He has in mind for them, and us, to be UP to.*

He comes to replace our failed hopes with new hope AND NEW PURPOSE that will not fail or disappoint.

“Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.”

Jesus showed them how the entire narrative of scripture, shaped by the creator God, Exodus, rescue, restoration works. Have a look at this video from the Bible Project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb24Lk1Oh5M&list=PLH0Szn1yYNec6O3ZOZzAMb2WW2abJwzZ-&index=5&t=6s> (1:30-4:52 in YOUTUBE)

What if He is at hand in ways we cannot “see” because we have it “fixed” in our minds how our problems must be solved? I observe that Jesus often seems to work in my life in “gentle power” that I cannot anticipate, do not “see coming”. How many ways, *looking back*, can we now say that He was present in ways we did not see coming? How he somehow “showed up”.

It’s important to tell these stories because these are “return to joy stories”.

I sat in a chair at a retreat center I went to from time to time to work on sermons. One evening, while struggling with my focus on what needed to be taught in our church, a woman at the retreat noticed me sitting there and asked what I was thinking about. Notice that she cared to ask! It’s like Jesus coming alongside that couple on the road. I told her. She listened and nodded, and then as she was about to turn to walk away, she said, *“Be the sermon.”* It was a word of the Lord for me, from a woman whose name I never knew.

One of the advantages of seasoning is that In looking back over our lives we can see more clearly how He was with us in unassuming, surprising ways.

Read the whole counsel of God's word and it will help you recognize how He is with us.

In Matthew 25:38. Jesus tells us a story from the future, about that Day when all things will be made right. He describes how all nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate people from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. That the king will say to those on his right hand,

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Here comes the surprise...we are all in for a surprise...

"Then the righteous will answer, 'Lord, and when was it that we saw you a stranger, and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you'? And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

Then, with our faithful imaginations fired by God's word, by His Holy Spirit, it begins to dawn on us,

"Sometimes God comes to us disguised as a stranger, and at other times God goes to others disguised as ourselves."

Stations of the Light. Mary Ford-Grabowsky, p. 128

Join me in prayer...

“Lead us, Jesus, our Pilgrim Lord,
 Son of the Father of all our journeys.
 As the sun moves from east to west,
 You reveal the meaning of each of our days.
 Send the Holy Spirit
 To take away from our hearts
 All that prevents us from knowing your presence
 In these precious hours.
 Let thankfulness fill our souls and inspire prayers of praise.

Make of us true disciples,
 Sent out on the many roads of this earth to do your will.
 So many are in need,
 So many do not know you,
 So many feel alone.
 Sharpen the tools of faith, hope and love,
 And employ us in the work of the vineyard.
 May the harvest be rich indeed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
 You are the light that dispels the shadows,
 And you are the food that strengthens our souls.
 Support us and guide us each day to our earthly home
 That you have given us,
 And bring us to home to you at last.”

[From Via Lucis: the Way of Light by Glenn Byer, p. 20)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it
 was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. (p. 22)