

He Walked With Them

WHAT WE FOUND

- The risen Christ joined two disciples on a seven mile walk and listened while they explained his own death to him incorrectly.
- Their facts were almost all right. The break was in verse 21, "we had hoped." The problem was a collapsed frame, not missing information.
- He did correct them, and sharply. But the rebuke lands in verse 25, which is after the question, after the long speech, and inside a conversation they had begun to want.
- He did not add new facts. He re-narrated the ones they already had, until the cross stopped being the thing that ruined the story and became the thing the story was about.
- He appeared to be going further. He would not come in until they asked, and they had to press him.
- They knew him in the breaking of the bread, and he vanished. The road was never meant to end with them attached to their companion. It moves them on to the table, and then to the road back to Jerusalem that same hour.
- They recognised the burning in their hearts and said so afterward; Luke does not tell us what either of them thought during the walk.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

VOICES OF THE CHURCH | St. Augustine on the hospitality that opened their eyes

Preaching in the Easter season, St. Augustine teaches in substance that these two did not recognize the Lord while he expounded the Scriptures to them, but recognized him when they received him as a guest. In welcoming a stranger, they welcomed the one they were mourning.

The pastoral edge he presses is that hospitality is not a preliminary to the encounter. It is where the encounter happened.

St. Augustine, summarized from his Easter season sermons on this passage. A faithful summary of his teaching, not a quotation.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH | Pope Francis on the art of accompaniment

Pope Francis wrote that the Church has to initiate all her members, priests, religious, and laity, into this "art of accompaniment," and that the one who accompanies must learn to remove his sandals before the sacred ground of the other person.

In the same passage he says the pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring. What this study makes of that is our own application rather than his wording: accompaniment that is impatient, or that is really about the accompanier, has stopped being accompaniment.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 169 (2013).

VOICES OF THE CHURCH | St. Gregory the Great on charity before understanding

Preaching on this Gospel, St. Gregory the Great teaches in substance that the two disciples did not yet believe, and yet they offered hospitality, and that it was in the doing of that charity that they came to know the one they had been talking about all afternoon.

His conclusion, put in his own pastoral register, is that we should not wait to understand before we love, because love is frequently the road by which understanding arrives.

St. Gregory the Great, summarized from his Forty Gospel Homilies. A faithful summary of his teaching, not a quotation.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Rung 2 of the ladder. One unhurried conversation. Still nothing announced, still nothing steered.

- Keep praying for the three by name, daily.
- Have one conversation this week with one of the three that you do not steer. Ask one real question about their life and then stop talking. Aim to listen for longer than is comfortable.
- Do not bring up faith. If they bring it up, follow them, and still do not steer.
- Afterward, write down one sentence: what is the frame they are holding their life inside? Bring that sentence, not the person's name, back next week.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Jesus himself drew near and went with them."

Luke 24:15

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read Mark 2:13-17 and Luke 15:1-2 before we meet. Both are short. Read them twice, and the second time, read them from the point of view of the people doing the complaining.

CATECHISM REFERENCES

- **CCC 1347.** The movement of the Eucharistic liturgy follows the movement of the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus.
- **CCC 1346.** The liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist form one single act of worship.
- **CCC 108.** Christianity is the religion of the Word of God, a Word not written and mute but incarnate and living.
- **CCC 601.** The plan of salvation through the death of the righteous servant was announced in advance in the Scriptures.
- **CCC 112.** Read the Scriptures within the unity of the whole of Scripture.