

APRIL 18, 2021
Sunday of the 3rd Week of Easter
Luke 24: 35-48

“PEACE BE WITH YOU!”

“There was once a little boy who always wanted to meet Jesus. One day he was walking home from Sunday school. As he went through the park, he noticed an old woman sitting on a park bench. She looked lonely and hungry, so he sat down and offered part of the chocolate bar he had been saving. She accepted it with a smile. He gave her more of the candy, and she shared a can of root beer with him. They sat together in a very friendly manner, eating, and drinking and smiling at each other. When the boy got up to leave, he reached over the woman and gave her a big hug. He walked home smiling. His mother noticed his big smile and happiness on his face and asked, ‘What did you do today that made you so happy?’ ‘I had lunch with Jesus. And she has a great smile,’ he said. The old woman returned to the small apartment she shared with her sister. She too was smiling. Her sister asked her why she was so happy. ‘I just had lunch with Jesus. And he is a lot younger than I expected,’ she said.”¹ My brothers and sisters, we will meet Jesus along the road of life.

There are two things in the gospel that I would like to focus on, we need to look upon and act on it: first is the experience of the two disciples along the road to Emmaus, their hearts are burning when they heard Jesus explaining the Sacred Scriptures, and second, the greetings of peace of Jesus. Jesus Christ re-enters the disciples’ life by appearing to them unexpectedly and undistinguished, and they were terrified because they thought He was dead and seeing a ghost. The two disciples experienced the presence of Jesus along the road, and He opened their hearts and mind by explaining to them things about Him through the Sacred Scriptures. He described that His passion,

¹ www.stories4homilies.co

agony, suffering, and death were no tragedies, and the resurrection was no surprise. All these things were part of God's plan, the Son of Man must suffer, die, and rise again for the salvation of the world. The experience of the two disciples encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus reflects that along our own journey called life, we will also encounter Jesus in the form of friends, relatives, co-workers, or complete strangers who are travelling in the same road with us, people whom we love, appreciate, despise, or want to disregard. He may even come to us not as a person, but in the form of events, daily experiences, or even nonliving objects. So, we must give time, love, and care to those people we encounter along the road of life. Let us not ignore them, God sent them to us as a form of being with Him. I would like to share this poem² from an unknown author as a reminder as we journey in life:

Life is like a journey on a train
with its stations, with changes of routes and with accidents!

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats! This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers...requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way – Love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life without us.

I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on your train
of life. Reap success, give lots of love and be happy.
More importantly, be thankful for the journey!
Lastly, I thank you for being one of the
passengers on my train!

² lessonslearnedinlife.com

My brothers and sisters let us also remember along the road, He said: "I am with you always, to the end of the age."³ We are not alone, He is always with us.

Jesus knew that His disciples were afraid, terrified, and even guilty of they did to Him, that's why, the greeting of "Peace be with you" was so important for them. Jesus wanted them to be at peace and they can only find this in Him. He showed His hands and feet to say that "I'm alive." This greeting brought joy and happiness to the disciples. My brothers and sisters, a lot of people need this kind of peace, we need to bring that peace to them that only Jesus can give, we need to bring Jesus to them. So, let us ask, challenge ourselves: I will carry and bring the message of peace of Christ to even one person, and if all of us did just that, we can reach a very large number of people who will benefit God's peace and love.

Let this be our prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, my King and my Savior, open my mind and heart to understand Your Word in the Sacred Scriptures that I may fully comprehend the truth and message You want to convey. Give me joy, courage, and boldness to live, share, and proclaim the Gospel in word and deed with the help of Your power and might. May I bring peace to others as I am at peace with You. Amen."

³ Matthew 28: 20 NRSV Catholic Bible Press