

Homily Fr. Brad Neely
3rd Sunday of Easter –
Peter and Paul, Nezperce: May 08, 2011
Acts 2: 14,22-33; 1Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

The Gospel story of the Road to Emmaus goes beyond the mere pleasure of having company and teaching while traveling on a journey. Even before we get to any theological facets of this excerpt, of which there are many, we gather a lot from the basic observations of the journey:

- * The two disciples travel *with* Jesus---
- * on the *same road* as Jesus---
- * listen to Jesus---
- * *burn with desire* as they hear Scripture being revealed---
- * *want Jesus to stay with them*---
- * *recognize Him* in the breaking of the bread,
- * and then *spread the good news* of His resurrection.

We can easily equate with a life of faith with these basic journey components--- a life path of faith during which we: *travel* with Jesus on *same path*, *listening* and allowing our hearts respond, *desiring the continued company* of Jesus, *recognizing* and *receiving* Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and *taking Jesus out into the world* with us.

We are free to ask ourselves:
Do I want to take this path?
Do I desire this path
which is actually **laid out by God?**
[as opposed to us, fitting God in where convenient].

Nothing is forcing us:

- * *to* travel the path at all---
- * *to* allow Christ to engage us on the path---

- * *to* say anything to Christ other than a polite “hello”---
- * *from* taking a detour from the path---
- * *from* letting our minds wander as Jesus talks of the Scriptures.
- * *to* invite Jesus to stay with us in our home.
- * *to*, once knowing it is Jesus with us, to spreading this news to the world around us.

Our ethic would lead us to think that we wouldn’t react to Jesus in any of these ways.

Given that, we can ponder the following:

- * *do* we often engage Christ in conversation?—
(as in prayer).
- * *is* our life path filled with so much else, that Christ is squeezed in on the tippy edge of the path?
- * *do* we just give Christ an occasional polite “hello”?
[mostly focused on our tight schedule]
- * *do* we freely detour from the path of faith, as laid out by God? (i.e. sin).
- * *do* we let our minds wander as Jesus talks to us in the Scriptures?
- * *do* we invite Jesus to stay with us?
- * *in* understanding that Jesus gives Himself to us,
do we keep His identity to ourselves?

I suspect that many of us, just having spent six weeks pondering Christ’s arduous journey with the Cross on the Via Delarosa.....
.....*I suspect many of us*.....
would have thought,
“I would have helped Christ had I been there.”

I hope so.

But the atmosphere at that time was hostile to Christ, and we know that so many of those

close to Him stepped back in self-preservation.

The world around us
can be hostile to Christ,
in all the ways of sin and evil.
But there is much good that goes unreported.
There is a lot of good in the world!
There are a lot of good people,
doing a lot of good things.
And we know that good
will ultimately win against evil.

Let's remember that we must contribute to
good
by fighting against evil---
by using our human freedom
to walk on the path of Christ:
* ***listening*** and allowing our hearts ***to respond,***
* desiring the ***continued company of Jesus,***
* ***recognizing*** and ***receiving Jesus***
in the breaking of the bread, (i.e.
Mass),
and ***taking Jesus out into the world*** with us.

This Gospel passage today, then,
speaks of ***ordinary*** things,
such as walking along a path to a
destination,
through which the ***extra-ordinary*** is
revealed---
the extra-ordinary being Jesus.
In our day and age,
we must ***reveal*** the ***extra-ordinary***
of Christ to the world
within our ***ordinary*** life journey---
our freely chosen ***path of faith.***