

Easter Octave Wednesday 2020
LK 24:13-35

On the afternoon of 9/11, no one started their conversation with “Did you hear?” On the afternoon of November 22, 1963, no one asked, “Did you hear the president was shot?” Because everyone knew.

On Easter Sunday afternoon, Easter Sunday afternoon, in the year 33 AD, you wouldn't have started your conversation with, “Did you hear?” By the time it was Easter Sunday afternoon, there was no one in Jerusalem who had not heard what had happened.

Everyone in Jerusalem was talking about the death of Jesus Christ:

- Did you feel that earthquake on Friday? Did you know it was at the same moment that Jesus of Nazareth died?
- I was in the Temple and that heavy curtain that separates the Ark of Covenant from us ripped right town the middle like a piece of newspaper. And I heard it ripped at the same moment that Jesus of Nazareth died.
- I was in the cemetery on Friday afternoon and at 3:00, the same time Jesus of Nazareth died, every tomb busted open. Couldn't believe it. I threw up from the smell of it.

- It gets better. This morning, some of our women went to the tomb to anoint the body and they saw angels who said Jesus was alive. The angels were talking to them. So some of my buddies went to the tomb and said the same thing. Angels were talking with them. This is crazy. This is absolutely unbelievable.

So when Jesus walked up to his two disciples and asked them what they were talking about . . . “What are we talking about? What is everybody talking about? Are you the only one in Jerusalem that doesn’t know what’s going on? On September 11th, were you the only one in the entire country who did not know we were attacked?” On November 22nd, 1963, were you the only one in this country who didn’t know Kennedy had been assassinated? At this period of time, are you the only one who didn’t know there’s a pandemic?

That is how absurd Jesus’ question was. And these two disciples were at the end of their rope because they were walking the wrong way. And we all know, that when you walk the wrong way, there’s nothing but problems.

If you take a good look at Luke's gospel as a whole, notice that the entire gospel is knitted together by Jesus' traveling, by Jesus on a journey from Galilee to Jerusalem:

LK 9:51: As the time approached when he was to be taken from this world, he firmly resolved to proceed toward Jerusalem . . .

LK 13:22: Jesus went through cities and towns teaching, all the while making his way toward Jerusalem . . .

LK 13:31: For all that, I must proceed on course today, tomorrow and the day after toward Jerusalem . . .

LK 18:31: Taking the twelve aside, Jesus said to them: "We must now go up to Jerusalem so that all that was written by the prophets may be accomplished . . .

LK 19:28: Having spoken thus, Jesus went ahead with his ascent to Jerusalem . . .

Since Luke places so much emphasis on going to Jerusalem, making his way toward Jerusalem, ascending to Jerusalem, the fact that the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus were making their way down a road away from Jerusalem says they were walking the wrong way. And when you walk the wrong way, there's nothing but problems.

Learn a lesson about walking the wrong way, whether it's you or someone you know: no ultimatums, no co-dependent behavior, no strong arming . . . the best way to approach someone walking the wrong way is to follow the example of

Our Blessed Lord, to draw them out and allow them to heal themselves.

1. Our Lord did not say, “I know what you need. I know what your problem is.” Rather, his technique was to draw them out. If the disciples’ hearts would have a tongue to speak, Jesus would have an ear to listen.
2. Jesus identified the problem: Their plan vs. God’s plan. Their plan did not mesh with God’s plan. Their plan was to have a Redeemer before He was crucified; God’s plan was to provide a Redeemer crucified.
3. Jesus gave them a good, honest, objective “I understand it this way.” “Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.”
 - a. He showed them all the Jewish types and all the Jewish rituals and all the Jewish ceremonies that were fulfilled in Him;
 - b. He quoted the prophet Isaiah and showed them that HE was Emmanuel, or God with us;
 - c. He quoted the prophet Micah, and how HE would be born in Bethlehem;
 - d. He quoted Moses and showed how he would be a serpent that would be lifted up to heal men of evil,

and how his side would be the smitten rock from which would come the waters of baptism

- e. He quoted from Isaiah again, and showed them the manner of his death and crucifixion, and his last words from the Cross.
 - f. He quoted everything from the entire Old Testament that related to him.
4. And finally, Jesus did not wear out his welcome. “He gave them the impression he was going farther.” He stated his case and let them decide: no ultimatums, no co-dependent behavior, no strong arming.

Do you know someone walking the wrong way? Are you walking the wrong way? Are you taking your chances at social distancing? “O, it’ll be safe.” Are you getting a little punchie to live with in your home isolation? Burned up at the media on both sides of the pandemic? The self-aggrandizement at the microphone. We are smart enough to distinguish opinion from fact.

Tell supermarket encounter.

Four points, then from today’s gospel, but I’ll skip to point 3, a good honest, I see it this way, as found in today’s daily devotional.

Obey My demands. They are steps in the ladder that lead to success. Above all, keep calm, unmoved.

Go back into the silence to recover this calm when it is lost even for one moment. You accomplish more by this than by all the activities of a long day. At all cost keep calm, you can help nobody when you are agitated. I, your Lord, see not as man sees.

Never feel inadequate for any task. All work here is accomplished by My Spirit, and that can flow through the most humble and lowly. It simply needs an unblocked channel. Rid yourself of self and all is well.

Pray about all, but concentrate on a few things until those are accomplished. I am watching over you. Strength for your daily, hourly task is provided.

Because when you walk the wrong way, there'd be nothing but problems. Just like the two disciples walking the wrong way, there'd be nothing but problems in Emmaus.