

Gospel Reflection (Luke 24:13-35) For the Third Sunday of Easter

The Walk to Emmaus

Two totally discouraged disciples were walking, returning home to Emmaus on Easter. They were unaware that Jesus had risen. Suddenly Jesus came along side them, but they didn't recognize him. They figured he was a stranger who wanted company. When they got to Emmaus, they asked him for supper. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread and said the blessing: then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him.

Noreen Towers was working among the poor with no evident success. One night she went to bed very discouraged. The next morning, shortly after waking, Jesus seemed to speak to her saying, *Can you not trust my plan for you?* That split-second experience changed her from a defeated person into a person with unshakeable faith.

How often have we felt discouraged or alone and ask where is God in this moment of crises? As the two disciples were walking back to Emmaus, the risen Jesus appears to them. Their minds, clouded by overpowering negative emotions, did not allow them to recognize Jesus. How many times, like the disciples of Emmaus, when tragedy and tribulations occur in our lives, are we so overwhelmed by negative emotions that we are unable to see that Jesus is by our side? We must understand that at our darkest moments, even though we may be engulfed by irrational feelings, Jesus is there. God never abandons us or leaves us orphans. In this unprecedented time that has changed the lives of everyone around the world, Christ is by our side. His love for us endures forever.

Fr. Robert Love