

Cleopas and the other disciple had heard about the empty tomb, but they did not believe Jesus rose from the dead. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus don't even recognize Jesus when they see him. "The divine purpose is to reveal the risen Jesus to them gradually, through the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread. In this way, their eyes will be opened not only in sight but also in faith, thus overcoming their lack of faith."ⁱ

Wouldn't it be wonderful for us to travel along the road with Jesus as he helps us to understand the Scriptures, as he points to everything that had been foretold and how it was fulfilled. Sacred Scripture makes known the heart of Christ. Closed before the Passion, the Scripture was obscure, but now that Jesus is risen, everything comes into focus (CCC 112).

- Adam and Eve brought sin into the world. Jesus is the new Adam who redeems the world. Mary is the new Eve who bears the savior in her womb.
- Abraham's son Isaac is spared, but God sends his only begotten Son, Jesus, to be the Paschal Lamb.
- The flood and Noah's ark prefigured salvation by Baptism, as did the cloud and the crossing of the Red Sea.
- Water from the rock was the figure of the spiritual gifts of Christ, and manna in the desert prefigured the Eucharist, "the true bread from heaven" (CCC 1094, Jn 6:32).
- When Moses lifted up a bronze serpent to save those bitten by snakes, it prefigures Jesus being lifted on the cross for the salvation of mankind.
- Moses climbs Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments that guide the Israelites to live in right relationship with God. Jesus gives his Sermon on the Mount telling humanity all that we should do to help build the Kingdom of God here and now.
- "In particular Jesus' redemptive death fulfills Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering Servant. Indeed, Jesus himself explained the meaning of his life and death in the light of God's suffering Servant" (CCC 601).
- The Jewish Passover prefigures the death and resurrection of Jesus leading us to the Promised Land of Heaven.

These are the lessons Jesus reveals as he walks with the disciples the 7 miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus. God's hidden plan is unveiled, and their hearts burn within them.

If we were to leave church today and walk home with Jesus, what might he reveal to us. How would he connect the Scriptures with the world we live in today?

- Our world and nation are deeply divided. "Our politics have become so cruel and uncompromising, and so lacking in mercy and hope... Without God, our politics is reduced to a kind of power struggle among competing interests ... And sadly, it is always the poor and vulnerable who are left to suffer at the hands of the powerful and privileged."ⁱⁱ
- Pope Paul VI reminded us, "If you want Peace, work for Justice." The Catholic vision of social justice is distinctive. "It is distinctive because we believe that the human person is a child of God, and because we believe that God has a beautiful plan of love for every human life."ⁱⁱⁱ The disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. We are called to recognize every human as created in the likeness and image of God. When society sanctions destruction of life in the womb or in the aged and the infirm, it is like Herod sending troops to Bethlehem and destroying every child under the age of two.
- "The Catholic vision ... is not about personal identity, or group power, or getting more material goods ... True social justice is about building a society where people can be

good, a society where people can love one another and take care of one another, where they can find God and know that they are made for heaven.”^{iv}

How do we combat the cruel and combative nature of the world? We learn and practice virtue through simple human kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. We embrace the cross and redemptive suffering to atone for the sins of the world. Amidst a sea of exploitation, we practice chastity. We live with less so that no one goes without.

Did not the Acts of the Apostles teach us (Acts 4:32-35) how to be a community of believers acting with one heart and mind? It is the heart and mind of Christ that helps us distribute to each according to their need.

Samantha Kirstein sent a beautiful email out explaining the efforts of the Food Bank in Fairbanks to help each according to their need. She writes, “In my 30 plus years of working with this food bank, we have been able to meet the needs expressed to us, and we are so thankful that this is GOD’s food bank. He knows what we need BEFORE we ask! And I am totally convinced that He doesn’t just tell me, He tells [people in the community] too.”

We live in God’s world. He is the author of life. He is the Divine Physician of healing and mercy. He is the law giver who calls us to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread and rush to our neighbors to share the Good News.

ⁱ Gadenz, Pablo T. The Gospel of Luke, pg. 393.

ⁱⁱ Catholicnewsagency.com/news/247285/archbishop-gomez-gospel-is-the-answer-to-the-new-religion-of-secularism

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.