



APRIL 26, 2020

# LOVE FIRST, FIRST LOVE

WEEK DEVOTIONAL BASED ON SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS 9:00AM AT  
WWW.FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG OR ON THE RADIO 97.7FM

## Luke 24:13-35

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." 25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

# REFLECTION

BY PASTOR RON MATHEWS

Kairos moments are those points in our life where God breaks in. Kairos time is God's time!

Sometimes those moments that stick with us are seismic in nature. James W. Moore writes that those rich moments which break into the humdrum and change your life; they are powerful, dramatic moments!

Kairos moments also appear in ways that at that moment seem to be insignificant, yet they leave a lasting impression.

Today's reading demonstrates the power of Kairos, this inbreaking of God into our lives.

Let me set it up for you...today's reading comes after his death. The women and Peter went to the tomb and saw it was empty and reported back to the group.

Then these two disciples left the rest and traveled to Emmaus, the next town over. As they walked, they encountered Jesus. After all this happened, they decide to return back to Jerusalem to a room of disciples who were still grieving, dismayed in belief by the reported events, and overwhelmed by fear that they will be killed next by either the Jewish or the Roman authorities.

When they first left the city they were wrestling with hopelessness and despair. After encountering Christ in the Kairos moment as they walked down the Emmaus Road they were renewed with hope. Given renewed life, they returned to Jerusalem, to a fear filled place with a message of hope.

Nothing about what had happened changed or magically went away because they encountered Christ. The leaders still sought to kill the disciples. And, in fact, all of the disciples but John will be martyred for their faith.

So what changed?

Experiencing Jesus in our lives changes the way we engage life. Nothing in our life has changed and yet at the same time everything has. That's because when we encounter Christ amidst the storm, the storm outside of us continues to rage, but the storm inside of us calms as we are filled with the peace of the Spirit. When Jesus appeared to them he said "peace be with you."

Here is how this internal change happened. The disciples were walking along the road discussing the past, about the events that had already taken place. When Jesus joins them on their walk, he brings their conversation into the present tense.

NOW. TODAY.

Jesus Christ is alive today. Christ continues to walk along the Emmaus Roads of our daily life.

Living into God's time is about living into God's hope. A hope that changes the way we approach our lives.

**WHAT WAS THE LAST KAIROS MOMENT YOU ENCOUNTERED?**

**HOW HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN CHANGED BY ENCOUNTERING CHRIST?**

**HOW DO YOU FIND THAT NEWNESS OF LIFE IN YOUR LIFE THAT HE MADE POSSIBLE BY HIS LIFE?**

