

Sacred Texts

Sacred Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus

- Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1 Chronicles 29:20

- Then David said to his son Solomon: “Be strong and steadfast, and go to work; do not fear or be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or abandon you before you have completed all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.”



One day, God called out to Abram. He said: “Abram, get up and go! Leave your country. Leave your relatives and your father’s home, and travel to the land I will show you. Don’t worry—I will guide you there. I have plans...” Genesis 12:1-2

Open your mind’s eye and imagine for a moment that you’re the one having this conversation with God. He approaches you carefully, taps you softly on the shoulder and says, “(insert your name here) we’re moving on, pack light, I have a plan.” Not to be overly presumptive here, but I think most of us would find this order a little challenging to follow. I mean how many of us are enthusiastic about letting go of or moving on from those things that give us a natural sense of security or comfort. The idea of leaving the safety of the familiar behind and embarking on a new path, or embracing a different journey, is a bit radical and frightening. It demands a special type of courageous dedication and faith. A confidence tempered by the graces of wisdom and hope, a stubborn belief that God is in the details and up to much good on our behalf. When viewed from this angle the idea of moving forward takes on a fresh meaning and energy and starts to lose some of its intimidation.

Reflection Questions

Have you felt any soft taps on the shoulder lately?

When was the last time you experienced God calling you in a new direction? How did you respond?

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says God “plans for peace, not evil, to give you a future and hope—never forget that.” Jeremiah 29:11

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