

Glasgow City Mission

Weekly Readings Week Beginning 12th April 2021

Luke 24:28-42

Monday 12th April

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

They have been walking together and relishing Jesus' teaching. He makes to leave – but they urge him to stay with them. In other words, they offer him hospitality. It's momentous decision for them. What a wonderful prayer – "stay with us, Lord". What do you think of the idea of offering Jesus hospitality in our lives? How can we offer him hospitality today? Do we crave his presence in our lives, or do we want to keep him at a distance?

Tuesday 13th April

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

What a moment! Jesus is sharing a meal with them, and they suddenly realise who he is. And just as suddenly he disappears! Why do you think he disappeared when they recognised him? Interestingly, they don't seem to be at all distressed or upset. Instead, they recall how they felt when he was talking to them and teaching them. What about us? Do we complain when we cannot sense him with us? Or do we, like these two people, marvel at the very fact that he spends time with us at all?

Wednesday 14th April

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus has returned, and overturned their lives once again. So they immediately tell the others what has happened, telling them that the rumours they have heard are true. The one who touched their lives before is doing so again, and he cannot be ignored. They have been given a marvellous gift of grace – the risen Jesus in their lives. Pray that we too will have a renewed sense of God's great grace in our lives and that through us, the world will see "It's true –the Lord has risen!"

Thursday 15th April

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

Jesus has become unpredictable. No wonder they are startled and frightened! It must have sounded a bit strange when he spoke of peace – how can we have peace when everything is so uncertain? They don't know when he is going to show up and when he will disappear! But which is better – a Jesus who will do exactly what you expect or who cannot be restricted or contained? Isn't it wonderful that nothing – not even death itself - can stop Jesus from working in this world?

Friday 14th April

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

The disciples are ecstatic. They can't believe what is happening to them. Jesus has returned to them, and they are overjoyed. What a wonderful moment! But even so, they still find it hard to believe – and with good cause! It is an extraordinary thing that Jesus is risen from the dead. It's wonderful that Jesus does not rebuke them for their doubt, but simply asks for something to eat. He says – it's true, I'm alive and I would like something to eat, please! Give thanks that, despite our confusion and lack of understanding, Jesus loves us and shares life with us.