

Radical Shift in Thinking Wednesday within the Octave of Easter April 19, 2017
8:15 AM Acts 3:1-10; **Lk 24:13-35** (God is opening up entirely new doors.)

“But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel.”

This is a very pithy remark, but it’s actually very important. The disciples are walking dejected because of **their dashed hopes** that Jesus would redeem Israel. Now “redeem Israel” means to free Israel from the power of the enemy. Now in their mind the enemy was Rome. **In their mind to redeem meant to liberate the country.** Now even to this day **in the Middle East religion cannot be severed from politics**; it cannot be. It is not the way of the people of the Middle East. And so it was at this time as well.

So what is going on here is that simultaneously Jesus’ disciples are feeling total despair and failure and at the same time **God is opening up entirely new doors**, doors they never expected to be opened or even thought about. And so although **we Christian people read this retrospectively** with a certain perspective, **having come to the faith and realizing that the resurrection of Christ is the basis of Christian faith**, we have to recognize **these disciples did not originally share that faith.** And that had nothing to do with their belief that Jesus was Messiah or their hope in the workings of God, the saving works of God. **It had nothing to do with what we understand to be the saving works of God.**

So something is going on here; it was **a tremendous transition from a certain way of speaking and thinking**, that Jesus might have referred to as “old wineskins,” **and the development of something totally new and different.** And by the way, you might notice that the whole **New Testament is written out only in the language of the Greeks**, not the language of Aramaic or Hebrew. The danger probably was that **Aramaic and Hebrew held all these old ideas.** In fact the rabbis used to say, “God only spoke in Hebrew.” Well, Jesus isn’t revealing the

God who speaks only in Hebrew. It's a different kind of revelation; it's a different kind of disclosure. And it's leading to **a very different kind of understanding of who God is and what God is doing.**

We often fail to realize the radical shifting happening right at this moment. We can read this too placidly. We have to recognize that **Jesus' disciples**, all of them, including the eleven, were actually beside themselves. They **didn't know what was happening.** And the whole world today is still beside itself not knowing what's happened. It is those who Jesus approaches and reveals himself in the breaking of bread that have a **special responsibility to help the world understand what God is doing.**