

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**The Breaking of the Bread**    Third Sunday of Easter/A    April 30, 2017    12:30 PM  
Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; **Lk 24:13-35**    First Holy Communion    (Wherever you are,  
God will be there; and you can start to see this the more you enter into the breaking of the bread,  
the celebration of the Eucharist.

You know, this past week I was over at our school, All Saints, and we had this reading. One of the children said to me, “You know, I find it hard to believe that the disciples didn’t recognize Jesus.” I don’t know what you think, but I said, “Oh I don’t; I run into this all the time. When I meet someone at the Jewel and for a while they don’t know who I am, all of a sudden they say, ‘Oh, I know who you are. I didn’t recognize you with your clothes on,’” or off or whatever they say, but meaning not in my vestments. So that happens.

And you know why it happens, because **we don’t always see what we are not expecting to see**. And that’s what Luke wants us to know: the resurrected Christ is not something these disciples expected to see, and therefore they didn’t, well they did but they didn’t recognize him. This happens to all of us in life; **we don’t really know what God is doing, and so we don’t see it**.

Now what was the emotional feelings of these disciples as they walked? What were they like? Were they happy as they walked along on the road to Emmaus? What were they like? They were sad; they were dejected. Why? **They were dejected because they thought that God was going to do something great, namely, free them from their enemies**. And who were the enemies of the Jews? Who crucified Jesus? Pontius Pilate, and who was he? He was the governor of the Romans. The Romans were the enemies. Well these disciples thought Jesus is the Messiah, therefore God is going to rescue us from our **Roman oppressors**. That’s what they thought. That’s not what happened—right? So they were disappointed. You know, **a lot of times in life believers, good real believers, have this idea of what God is going to do, and it’s not what happens**.

Sometimes saints have a real good idea of what God is doing, but that’s not what happens. That is part of our life, and Luke wants us to know that. **We are all like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and at times we are going to be disappointed by something**. We are going

to think that God should have—should have—done something, and didn't. I hate to tell you now when you are so young, but, yep, this is going to happen.

But here's the point that Luke is making: **unbeknownst to them without their recognizing at all, Jesus was with them.** They thought it was just some guy that joined the party. The same will happen to you; the same has happened to me. **God comes to us in lots of different ways; but if we are not looking, we don't see it. But if we open our eyes, we do see it.**

Now the next part of the story is about when their eyes were opened, where were they? Where were they when their eyes were opened? What was happening? Where were they? Were they in bed? No, where were they? Playing cards? No. Where were they? Doing what—part of the story? They were having supper. Weren't they? Yes, **they were having supper, and it is in the breaking of the bread**—what does that mean? What's the breaking of the bread? What do we call the breaking of the bread? What do we call it here? **We call it the Holy Mass—that's the breaking of the bread.** So when Jesus broke the bread, which I do every time we have Communion, I always break the bread. Then they said, "Oh, all of a sudden, oh, we know who he is." But then he wasn't there anymore.

So what Luke is trying to say is **the Christian community in the long run over many years started to learn how Jesus was still in their lives. And they were able to do that because of the breaking of the bread, because when they come to the Eucharist, when they gather and allow God to feed them with his body and his blood it equipped them, it changed them. It gave them new eyes to see life in a new way.**

And it's the same for you. **You are receiving the body and blood of Christ today for the first time. It will equip you to see life in a new way.** It will help you see that you have not been abandoned. There are graces that come with sacraments. And **one of the great graces of the Eucharist is the grace to see that God is with us; in fact, we are in communion with God, not only today when you are here at Mass, but tomorrow at school and Wednesday on the ballfield and, Angel, what are you doing Thursday? Okay at home, wherever you are, God will be there. And you can start to see this the more you enter into the breaking of the bread, the celebration of the Eucharist, which is what we are doing here.** So you see what a great privilege it is for you to have been invited today to partake in this wonderful gift of God with us!