

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Recognizing in the Breaking of the Bread Wednesday within the Octave of Easter April 4, 2018 8:15 AM Acts 3:1-10; **Lk 24:13-35** (That is sufficient, that is enough.)

“Oh. how foolish you are!”

This is a story of the **foolish disciples**, and their foolishness is not only that they didn't know how to interpret the death of Christ, but that they were so **preoccupied with themselves** and their story and their discussion and their disputes, that they did not recognize Jesus. Not only did they not recognize him physically, which maybe wasn't their fault at all because most people didn't recognize him; partly they weren't expecting to see him, but partly he did not appear as he had before. So that is not, in a way, their own fault, but then, **“beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures,”** and they still **didn't click**. Later they say, well, “our hearts were burning,” but **even while their hearts were burning, they were not connecting what was going on within them with this person next to them.**

Now Luke tells this story because this is the experience of many disciples. They only **recognize the presence of God afterwards, in retrospect**. It is also interesting that the minute they recognize him he disappears. Now, again, **the appearance and disappearance of the resurrected Christ follows no particular logical or pattern. Doubtless it is the breaking of bread that was significant for recognizing the presence of Christ among them.** And maybe the point is that once we recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread, **that is sufficient, that is enough.** But **if we don't recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread,** if we don't recognize Christ while he instructs us, while he accompanies us, then **we are wasting an enormous amount of time.** And that is the bottom line of Luke's message.