

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Third Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2020

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory.’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

– Luke 24:26-27 –

I have always enjoyed Bible study. They are times of great learning, in the preparation of, the participation in, and the leading of those studies. Oh, what it must have been like to be in that Bible study Jesus led with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus is making known exactly how God fulfilled his promise to save the world he so loves. In so doing he shows the continuity of the Scripture. He shows us the extent that the Father went to in sending Jesus to reconcile us to Himself.

We do not sit with Jesus in the flesh. That said, when we spend time in the Word, we are spending time with Jesus. The Holy Spirit, given to us in Baptism, helps us to see the work of Jesus in the Scripture. In reading the Gospels, Jesus regularly refers to the Scriptures of his day, the Old Testament, and how he is fulfilling the Scripture. One place is recounted when Jesus stood up to read the text of the day in the synagogue. He read the passage from Isaiah 61:1-2. When he sat down, Jesus declared, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:21)

When we regularly spend time in the Word our hearts and minds are being opened, just as Jesus was doing with the disciples. We see the full investment Jesus makes in us by laying aside the glory of heaven, taking the form of a servant he “...humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

In the study of Scripture, we see what faithfulness looks like in Christ. We hear the good news that Jesus took what was ours, the full weight of our sinful nature and the expressions of that sinful nature. In exchange, we are clothed with Christ and his righteousness. There are plentiful resources in helping us understand God’s Word. Yet, for all the study guides and commentaries at our disposal what matters the most is being in the Word, in relationship with Jesus. In the word we hear Jesus calling us to repentance and the forgiveness of our sins. “For the promise is for you and for your children and all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” (Acts 2:39)

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