

January 2017

He went in to stay with them - Luke 24:29

✚ Reflection:

Along the road to Emmaus, we find two disciples with sad faces. There we may also find ourselves or many of our peers. The sufferings and trials of this life lead every person to long for salvation, for joy that is genuine and lasting. The disciples "stood still, looking sad" because they had lost hope in salvation. Jesus was gone. And the heart that despairs in dark times might join with the Psalmist in crying out, "Why, Lord, do you stand far off?"

It is in this state that Jesus comes near, to meet them, to walk with them, and to stay with them as night falls. Along the way, he edifies them and strengthens their hearts with the word of God. Throughout the Old Testament, God begins to show that He is not a God who is distant but one who accompanies his people and who is near, especially to the suffering; for he is a saving God. And as Jesus journeys with these despairing disciples, He walks them through all of Scripture and salvation history, to prove to them that God's faithfulness and love have not failed.



Jesus explains this to them not merely by pointing at verses, but by opening their hearts to see Him in all of Scripture. The word of God written down tells much about God's nearness. But the Word of God, co-eternal with the Father, He is that nearness. For, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us," and He even walks with us along the way. In the end, God does not offer just inspiring messages or words of wisdom to cling to in difficult times. He gives us His Word, which is His own self, to accompany us and stay with us always until the end of the age.

In Jesus, God has unveiled for us His own depths as unconditional and self-emptying love. Let us invite Jesus, the Word of the Father, the abiding Presence of God, to stay with us, dispelling our despair and setting our hearts on fire as He opens the Scriptures to us.

☩ Saints Quote:

"By giving us, as he did, his Son, his only Word, he has in that one Word said everything. There is no need for any further revelation... Although he had spoken but partially through the prophets he has now said everything in Christ. He has given us everything, his own Son." - St. John of the Cross

☑ To Do:

Take short vacations in our daily schedule to become aware of the Word accompanying us with deep love

