



A Peaceful Scene

I remember as a child, a relative of mine having a picture entitled “*The Road to Emmaus*” hanging on the wall. It was a beautiful, serene scene of Jesus walking towards Emmaus with the two disciples mentioned in today’s Gospel. They were at the edge of a forest and it appeared to be late afternoon or early evening. In the distance, you could see the outline of the village. As a child, I could only imagine what they were talking about, but I do remember being struck with a sense of peace looking at the painting.

I am sure there was some peace in that situation, but more than that, there had to be a sense of confusion, disappointment and finally hope. Yes, the disciples were hoping that Jesus would be the one they had been waiting for. They knew He was crucified, but now they heard news that He was alive! What were they to make of all this?

It is a truly moving line in the Gospel, when the disciples ask themselves, “Were not our hearts burning within us as we walked with Jesus?” Yet, in the end, something good happened. They did recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. They were able to share this good news and all doubt and confusion gave way to joy and exultation. Their hearts then burned with love and devotion to the Lord.

Let us ask ourselves if we recognize Jesus when He appears to us. We know He is there in the breaking of the bread when He gives Himself to us in the Eucharist. We know He is there when He speaks to us in the Scriptures. We know He is there when we experience love and compassion from someone. Jesus is not to be found in the tomb but among His people, continuing to show His love for them!

Father David