



JOURNEY CRASHERS

This week we are looking at Luke 24:13-49.

Two followers of Jesus are traveling on the road to Emmaus and the Risen Jesus joins them for the journey. The men are discussing the events of the weekend at one point along the way, one of them said, "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel."

These men really believed they had the one who was going to make everything better, and they had a picture in their head of what that would look like. They certainly did not believe it would involve Jesus dying. But die Jesus did and in a way, all of their hopes died with him.

Have you ever said something like that? "But we had hoped...."



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But we had hoped this pandemic would end soon.

But we had hoped our healthcare workers would be safe.

But we had hoped the chemo would work.

But we had hoped she would stay clean this time.

But I had hoped my near and dear ones would survive this.

But we had hoped the leaders would make the just decision.

But I had hoped they wouldn't tease me this time.

But I had hoped they would believe me when I said he hurt me.

But I had hoped my baby would be okay.

Of course, you have your own version of these thoughts. It is impossible to be human and not, at some point along the way, find yourself wondering why you had hoped for something in the first place. To hope for anything means that we will be at best, disappointed, and at worse, devastated.

And devastated seems to be the right description for what these disciples are feeling. They cannot believe what happened to Jesus and they are trying to make sense of it by talking it out on their journey. They are so upset by it all that they cannot even recognize that Jesus is right there with them.

When we are in that kind of place where it feels as if all hope is gone, we become blind to any measure of hope that may be right in front of us. The resurrection is the event that shows us that the worst things in this world are not the last things. Jesus' dying was the worst thing for those who followed him and devoted themselves to him. They thought the journey they had with Jesus was over. So they started a new journey – one born of broken dreams and lost hope.

And then, Jesus crashes that journey. Jesus shows up

and in showing up those who followed Jesus realized they were following the right guy, but for the wrong reason. Jesus' resurrection redeems their story of loss and hopelessness into a story of great hope in the face of even the worst things that happen in our lives. For us, remembering the story of the resurrection reminds us that even the worst things in our lives are not the last things. And if we allow it, may be Jesus will interrupt our journeys of lost hope and transform them into journeys of joy, bewilderment, and delight...

Illumination

- Find a quiet place where you feel some privacy.
- Take a moment to settle your soul in God's presence.
- Call to mind the hopes you have had or currently have in your heart. As each one comes to mind, write it on the paper inside the heart's outline.
- Imagine that you are sitting with God. "Take" each hope and lay it into God's heart and hands. Visualize this sharing in any way that is meaningful to you, paying attention to how God seems to look at you as God receives your hopes.
- Imagine that God says to you, "We all collect things of value, don't we? I have collected your hopes." Stay with God as long as you wish instead of hurrying away from the moment. You might choose to go off somewhere private for the rest of your prayer time.
- When you are done, simply rest for a while, then open your eyes, then close with a prayer.

Mindfulness

O God of love, like the disciples walking with Jesus to Emmaus, we have learned that to hope is to open

ourselves to heartache, for life rarely turns out as expected, and people often disappoint us. Teach us to grieve these losses, to let go of our expectations, so that you may plant seeds of resurrection. Help us to live in the pain of the moment, so that when we are ready, a new day will arrive. Death and resurrection, death and resurrection, you are constantly making new life out of death. Enable us to believe. Empower us to live like believers. In the Resurrected One, we pray. AMEN.

An Easter Treat

Dedicated to Our Wonderful Choir

Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/2SaBhN2idbM>

Remember Holy Joes

Your faithful stewardship throughout this crisis has enabled us to fulfil our mission without interruption. And so, I continue to encourage you to remember that St. Joseph's mission is vital to our community now, and will be all the more needed in the weeks and months to come.

I'm inviting you to join me in giving a special Easter offering online, as an act of faith and thanksgiving for the abundant life that you experience through the many ministries of Holy Joe. Your generosity makes this abundant life possible for so many others, both near and far—especially in this season of deep need.

I am grateful for your generosity and for your continued faithfulness to God, in such a time as this.

Please visit our website and the portal 'Donate to Our Parish' and download the forms you need and make your offerings.