

SERVICE NOTES 18TH APRIL 2021

Lectionary passages:-

Psalm 4;

I John 3 v1-7;

Luke 24 v36-48;

This week we have the familiar story of the road to Emmaus. We meet two unfamiliar disciples, only one of whom is named. We do not know if the unnamed one is a wife, sister, brother or friend of Cleopas, but that is no matter to our story.

What does matter is the conversation which we are privy to.

Cleopas and his partner are disillusioned. Things have not gone well in Jerusalem for Jesus.

They are heading home as they felt Jesus had failed. He had not fulfilled his promises to rise to life on the third day. Any rumours to the contrary they discount as fake news.

They are not happy because things are not going as they would have them go, a *common source of problems between us and God!*

Jesus comes alongside them as a fellow traveller. He encourages them to talk, to share their hearts.

They reveal their failed hopes and expectation of something big from Jesus. They also reveal their ignorance of the Scriptures and the truths which they have overlooked. They are so like us, or is it we are so like them?

We/I do not take the scriptures seriously in some areas. We choose what we want to hear!

The couple on the road to Emmaus certainly had been selective in their scripture reading. Jesus even calls them foolish and slow, not to believe in the words of the Bible!

What would he say to us in the 21st Century about our views and trust in Scripture?

Jesus speaks to them from the Scriptures. He preaches and warms their hearts greatly. I look back fondly sometimes to the times when a preacher expounded well the scriptures, inspiring my heart and life. Or to the times when a book based on Bible passages is written to encourage and inspire.

We are foolish if we cut this avenue of blessing from our lives.

We must seek out God's thoughts and words diligently, those who seek do find, Jesus said so!

Then Jesus prays over the food and the couple have their eyes opened fully. Maybe they had suspected something was not right with the stranger, but when he

SERVICE NOTES 18TH APRIL 2021

prays and blesses the food they have a revelation, we all need a revelation from time to time. They see him and they believe!

The disciples leave the washing up and probably a half-eaten meal and rush back to Jerusalem to share the good news, news they cannot keep to themselves a minute longer. They must share it, now and are willing to run 7 miles at night, along dark roads to make sure the message gets through. Maybe if mobile phones had been around they would have rang ahead, or maybe this is a message which only a face to face conversation can pass on?

How do we deal with and pass on the good news of the Resurrection of Jesus?

Do we show such an urgency?