

26 April 2020 - 3rd Sunday of Easter - Homily
By: Fr. Paul Magyar

Luke 24:13-35 describes the two disciples on the road to a village called Emmaus. The disciples are one of the 70 and not the 12. Emmaus means "warm spring." Only one of the disciples is named: Cleopas, while the other remains unnamed. Cleopas means "glory to the father", while the female version of the name is Cleopatra which means "glory of her father." The two disciples are heading to a warm spring together with Christ. The "hidden gem" description of a disciple of Christ in general according to Luke, presented in this gospel passage, is someone who gives glory to God the father through Christ and that will lead him/her to warm springs. The path of life as psalm 16 mentions leads the disciple/follower of Christ to the source of living water. Warm springs can be understood as a bath for washing away sins as in baptism in Christ. It is also the spring of living water that quenches thirst forever. The springs of salvation: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation. It can also mean heaven because once a person is baptized they step foot into heaven. Thus a baptized person lives simultaneously in heaven and earth at the same time.

We know the precise stage of faith which the two disciples have reached. They believed in Jesus as a prophet; they hoped that He would redeem Israel. However, they had not risen to the belief that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus deal with the disciples by choosing to spiritually educate them. Jesus places emphasis on necessary suffering for Christ. The thought that suffering is a necessary condition of the glory of the resurrection that followed, became from this time forth a focal theological teaching in Christian thought. Necessary suffering is a constant biblical motif; in order to go from a bad place to a better place you have to travel through a worse place in between. To go from slavery in Egypt to the promise land the Israelites had to endure 40 years in the desert in between. In order for Jesus to go from being rejected by the scribes, pharisees, and Sanhedrin on every teaching or miracle and end up in a resurrected state he had to endure the road to calvary and death in between.

The opening of the scriptures correlates with the opening of the eyes of the disciples thus their knowledge increases. Jesus emphasizes the importance of learning about Him through studying the scriptures.
Praying for all of you. Fr. Paul Magyar