

# Scripture reading for Tables with Jesus

New Testament Lesson comes from the Gospel According to Luke, chapter 24, verses 13-32. Listen for the word of God.

Now on that same day (of Jesus' resurrection) two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.

They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

This is the word of the Lord.

# Tables With Jesus

On Sept, 3, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church of Independence, we gathered for worship around Tables With Jesus, engaging in a special encounter with the Gospel in place of the sermon. Each table had both adult and child activities, so families were able to visit the tables together. You are invited to do your own meditation/prayer time based on the tables themes as described below.

The Lord's Table was one of the Tables with Jesus, with Communion being served in small groups as people visited that table. Pastor Dave remained there throughout to provide Communion to each group.

For Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, the tables will be reset at Westminster Hall as one of our activities during the Fall Fling potluck, which also featured our first Craft Bazaar in support of people in need in our community.

## *Tables with Jesus*

Table themes for our interactive Gospel encounter toward the end of today's worship service.

### **Thanking Jesus**

We are always told to be polite and say "please" and "thank you." In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus heals 10 lepers but only one goes back to thank Him. *How often do we remember to tell Jesus "thank you" for all the wonderful things that He has done for us? If you could thank Jesus, what might you say to Him?*

### **Bear Your Cross for Jesus**

You have a choice between playing with your friends or doing chores for your parents. Which are you going to choose? Are you going to do what is fun or not fun? What would Jesus say you should do? *How can you be more like Jesus?* Sometimes, we are asked to do things we would rather not do or be around people you would rather not be seen with and bear the cross. *What does this mean for you?*

### **Be a Carpenter like Jesus**

Homework. Sports. Meetings. Conferences. Preparing dinner. Paying bills. Hanging with friends. These items, and many more, take time and effort. But where is Jesus? Just like Jesus had to learn the art of building before He could lead people, we must also build our relationship with Jesus so that we can help build the Kingdom of God. *What does this look like in your life? Are you so busy with your extracurricular activities that Jesus is left behind on the sidelines? What might your activities and attitude look like if Jesus was leading you through those activities?*

### **Everyday Table**

Every day we are given the opportunity to pray for, help, listen to, counsel, or simply be with one of Jesus' children. This table will give you an opportunity to reflect on how you can be the hands, feet and heart of Jesus for those you come in contact with during your everyday life. *What might be some of those opportunities? How can you be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus to others in your everyday life?*

### **Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus**

You've heard the phrase, "Try walking in someone else's shoes." The usual response is that we don't want to. However, in the case of following Jesus, we really should be walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Although it's not always easy to do this, we are called to follow Jesus. *What might it look like for you to walk in Jesus' footsteps? Do you find yourself being attracted to other things that lead away from following the footprints?*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

How grateful we are, O God, that, no matter where we are on our journey with you, we can turn to you in prayer.

We offer our thankfulness that you are with us as we travel, and we ask that your Spirit fall upon each of us as we come together in this place of prayer.

Some of us are struggling with meaninglessness as we travel on the road of life; others struggle with issues of health and caregiving.

Some struggle with relationships, while others struggle with loneliness.

Some are desperate as they search for a job, while others complain about the job they have.

Some struggle with resentment, while others speak before they think and act without a thought for how others feel.

We struggle with the effects of national disasters, war, and brutality, and strive to make sense of death and loss.

We pray especially for Betty Bumgarder, Vicky and Bob, Phil, her children Matthew and Tiffany and their spouses, and all the family as Betty has moved to hospice care.

And we are thankful that with this and all that we struggle with, prayer is the safe place to surrender and let go of the struggle.

Grant us all the courage to let go of the outcomes and release our burdens to you, O God, that we might walk the road of life with a lighter step as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus the Christ, who walks with us, and who taught us to pray as we do now, with our eyes lifted toward heaven and our voices raised in song:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory.**