

“ The Road to Emmaus”



by Marge Loenser

The Story of the Road to Emmaus from Luke’s Gospel has really infiltrated my thoughts. To me walking through life is like the being on the road to Emmaus. Emmaus in Hebrew means “warm springs”. Bear with me, I’d like to equate warm springs to heaven, so then if the road to Emmaus is life’s road, it stands to reason that it leads to warm springs or to heaven.

The two men (one of them being Cleopas) are making that seven-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus, presumably their home. These men were undoubtedly disciples of Jesus. They walk home deeply troubled, in fear and shock, broken in spirit, their dreams of a new Jerusalem with Rabbi Jesus, as Messiah have been dashed. What is left? What will they do? How can they erase the horror of Jesus being crucified? How could it be?! Didn’t he raise the dead? Didn’t he cure the blind? Didn’t he walk on water? Oh, why did He allow it? Oh why, why?!

Alongside them comes another traveler who asks them what they are talking about (it is the Risen Lord Jesus, but they do not recognize Him yet); they are incredulous with his ignorance of the events of the trial and Calvary. He continues with them and as they bewail their situation, he listens and instructs them with scripture, starting with Moses “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from the midst of your brethren...” and many more scripture quotes, so they can understand that Jesus was not meant to be ruler of Israel to free them from the Romans, but to die to free them from their sins and open heaven to them. After breaking bread with them He reveals Himself and we know they rush back to Jerusalem to share their story with the others.

So-- back to *our* road to Emmaus-- *our* journey through life toward heaven. We too at times are fearful, lonely, doubtful! Do I-- do we, remember that Jesus is traveling with us? How quickly I forget, we forget! Remember, one of His names is Immanuel, “God is with us” He is with us! He walks with us through this pandemic, He suffers our loneliness, our fears, our losses. If we have Jesus, we have company and consolation. Earth is only our temporary home. He made us to be with Him in heaven! My brothers and sisters let us pray for an end to the corona virus. We pray for those suffering with it; for the medical people on the front lines, and may Jesus protect everyone called to work during this time. We pray for the people who have died, that they may rest beside “Warm Springs” with Jesus. Let us feel Your comforting words and presence, dear Lord. Amen