



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

26 April 2020

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Luke 24:13-35 (NIV)

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Luke 24:13-35

Some followers of Jesus walked beside him for a few miles, but failed to recognise Jesus.

It was only as Jesus broke bread when they sit down to eat that their eyes were finally opened.

We might wonder why on earth these men didn't "put two and two together", and realise who it was walking along beside them.

After all, this man was explaining scriptures, and helping them to make sense of the past days and weeks spent with Jesus. Days and weeks which had been challenging, confronting and peppered with Jesus telling them that he had to go to Jerusalem, and to die. Days and weeks which confused and dismayed the disciples, who were expecting Jesus to establish His Kingdom here on earth.

Surely they realised that only Jesus could explain all of that! But they did not.

There are times when we, too, fail to realise that Jesus is walking beside us, each step of the way.

He isn't there physically, but He is there in spirit. And, when things are tough, he also sends "human angels" our way, to help us along the most difficult stretches of the road.

When life isn't making sense to us, we can go to Jesus with our questions, our doubts, and our fears.

He doesn't always answer in the way we would expect, or like. But it can be reassuring to simply know that Jesus listens, and cares.

You are NOT alone



Life isn't tied with a bow,
but it is still a gift.

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- Shirley Whitten expresses her thanks for everyone's prayers over the past months.
- We continue to pray for Ian Blanch.
- We give thanks that so many people have been vigilant in keeping the rules, and that the number of new Covid19 cases has decreased so much in Australia.
- We give thanks for autumn sunshine. If we can't have rain, then the sunshine is appreciated.

Meg's Musings

I came across this prayer recently, and wanted to share it with you.

"Forgiving God, let me dare today to forgive others, and offer them the peace you offer me each moment of my life."

I'm not always good at letting go of annoyances and grievances.

This prayer reminds me that I can ask for help when I am finding forgiveness difficult.

It also lets me know that that it's alright if I do find it difficult... as long as I choose to ask for God's help!

If I simply decide that forgiveness is too hard, and leave it at that, then I am failing.

But if I acknowledge that I need God's help in this department, I am acknowledging that I am imperfect, but trying.

That is all God ever asks of any of us.

Blessings from Meg



AN UPDATE FROM THE BUDDEN'S

Wow hasn't the weather been beautiful? We thank God for the life giving rain we have had and the lovely sunny days that beckon us outside – even if it is only in our own backyard.

I am thankful that God has given me time to spend in my own garden. I have been able to refresh my soil and get rid of some weeds and things lost in the drought. I have been able to plant anew, mostly annuals, so hopefully, when we are all back at church I have some flowers for our vases.

Denby and I have been spending time with Mum keeping her entertained out in the backyard – doing some paving and lots of cleaning up. Extending the chook run and planting some sweet peas for her. I am thankful that I saved as much water as I could so I can water what we have planted.

As I have been spending most of my time outside not a lot has happened inside. I have started knitting some little bags for our Christmas boxes and have some donated material to make larger bags for the boxes. I have lots of pretty beads to make some jewellery too. One thing I need a hand with is I have a box of Disney tiles from when the supermarket was giving them out with your shopping. They donated the left overs. They are in wrapping – so if anyone has time to cut them open and dispose of the wrapping can you let me know. Thanks.

Mum, Denby and I are looking forward to laying the ANZAC wreath on behalf of the church this weekend. Lest We Forget.

May God hold you in the palm of his hand. ~ Sue

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Sue and Mavis are knitting purses and Beulah is knitting bears to add to our boxes. It would be great to hear what others are doing.

Suggestions are: marble bags, skirts or shorts and fabric bags. What crafty ideas can we come up with.

Please do not go shopping.

I'm sure that we can dream up some wonderful crafty ideas to while away our time of isolation.

~ Meg

Tough times never last but tough people do. ~ Robert H. Schiuller

- 28 April ~ Jean Stratford
- 10 May ~ Alison Forrester
- 14 May ~ Evelyn Kean
- 20 May ~ Shirley Whitten
- 26 May ~ Bill Forrester



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BROKEN DREAMS

As children bring their broken toys with
tears for us to mend,
I bought my broken dreams to God because
he was my friend,
But then, instead of leaving him in peace to
work alone,
I hung around and tried to help with ways
that were my own.
At last I snatched them back and cried,
"How can you be so slow?"
"My child", he said,
"What could I do?... "You never did let go"

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0466 337 005**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus