

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



The disciples did not recognize the Risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. They walked with him for seven whole miles, from Jerusalem to Emmaus, but failed to realize who he was. How is that possible?

They only recognize him at the Breaking of the bread, prepared by their listening to Jesus' words to them along the journey.

Chadd Wyatt, a retired Navy Seal, was once asked what was the main thing, he took away from his Navy Seal BUDS training, he said 'the power of the spoken word' .

During training, his best friend, like everyone else, was thinking about quitting. He thought about it, but one morning he actually said "I don't think I'm going to be able to do this." From that moment it was all over. The guy rang the bell that morning and quit the Seal training.

Chadd Wyatt said his friend would have been able to complete BUDS, but as soon as he said those words, they became a reality, and determined the direction he was going to take.

The power of the spoken word. The Disciples in today's Gospel are walking along the road to Emmaus. They are speaking. Until that point, they had thoughts, perhaps "What the heck happened?" "How could God have allowed this to happen?" "We had such high hopes about Jesus, but he ended up crucified and killed." All their dreams and projections had been smashed. That is certainly what they were thinking. They probably had thoughts of fear, panic, uncertainty, doubt, worry, disappointment.

But then they gave voice to these thoughts. Their thoughts become reality. The Gospel says they were downcast.

Jesus appears at their side, and speaks other words to them. Jesus' words make their hearts burn within them. Listening to His words, their fear, panic, distress, worry, disappointment, are gone.

Thoughts enter our head unbidden. They come either from the enemy of our soul, the devil, or from our friend and advocate, the Holy Spirit. The voice we give to our thoughts determines how we experience and live our life. There is a negative, pessimistic, fearful, hopeless voice. There is a hopeful, faith filled voice.

Which thoughts will we listen to today? What voice will we give to them?

Christ Jesus, Risen, accompanies us on our journey. He speaks words of life to us.

His words are expressed in the beautiful prayer of St. Teresa of Avila:

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing away, God never changes, patience obtains all things, whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.

Happy Easter!

Fr. Sean