

Hindsight is 20/20
Luke 24:13-32
Sunday, April 26, 2020
3rd Sunday of Easter

How many times have you lived through an event and then when you look back at it you have an “Ah-ha!” moment? How many times have you read something not understanding it, and then on the 10th time you suddenly get it?

When was the last time that happened to you? Has it been a while? If so, we are living through a season where the Lord is granting us a wonderful opportunity to look back over our lives, examining them and perhaps experience a revelation or epiphany.

In writing this message this week, as I studied the text for I don't know how many times, I saw several new insights into this story that had never dawned on me before. This is a joy when it happens. It feels like the Holy Spirit has revealed something to me. This time, it was funny because I felt like Cleopas! Spending time in God's word and then suddenly I see something important and then the Spirit left me to write this sermon!

In the Gospel lesson we meet Cleopas and his friend on that first afternoon after Jesus rose from the dead. They are walking to Emmaus when Jesus joins them. They don't recognize him though. As I read through the whole chapter, I realized that Cleopas and his friend must have been fairly close friends to Jesus and the other disciples. Yet, this is the only time we hear anything about them. They were part of the intimate circle, but only mentioned in this story. They were a bit obscure to Christ's story. This was the first insight. These obscure disciples were important to Jesus. He visited them before he went to meet up with his primary disciples. Once again, Jesus surprises us by revealing things to those who are the least amongst the powerful.

Do you find it odd that Cleopas and his friend didn't recognize Jesus as he walked along with them that afternoon? I do. These two disciples had been with the other disciples that morning, so it's plausible for us to assume that they knew Jesus pretty well. The lesson we learn from this, is that God will reveal himself and his insights to us in his time and way. We can't control God, but we can always be open to seeing and experiencing God.

The third lesson I learned from this story, is that Jesus opened up the scriptures to Cleopas and his friend, revealing the historical truth of his life as told through the prophets. Even though Cleopas and his friend had spent time with Jesus, they had “holes” in their understandings that Jesus wanted to fill in for them. If we find we have holes in our faith, Jesus wants to fill us with understandings or wisdom as well.

So if God was willing to show these three lessons to me this week after years of examining this story. What might God be willing to reveal to you about your life with him during this special time in your life?

The only way you will discover the revelations is if you are willing to look back over a time in your life when you were wondering what in the world was God trying to teach you. Hindsight is 20/20 folks.

This coronavirus season is going to come to an end at some point. I believe that the Holy Spirit is journeying with us, just as Jesus was with Cleopas and his friend. We may be blind to him unless we are willing to look back over our lives.

Now is also the time for us to be open to learning new insights that Christ wants to share with us through examining the scriptures. Many of us have time. Eileen is willing to lead a Bible study for anyone who is interested. Please prayerfully consider her offer:

There is an old saying, "An unexamined life isn't worth living." With our slower pace of life I believe the Lord is giving many of us the opportunity to examine our lives, to learn new lessons, or remember and re-embrace important ones.

In the near future, we will come to a crossroads in our journey. The preventative health guidelines that we have been following won't be necessary and life will change. We will have the opportunity to invite the Holy Spirit into a more intimate place in our lives or let him go on his way down the other fork in the road. If we invite the Holy Spirit into that closer relationship, then we will be blessed with more revelations in the days ahead. If we let the Spirit take the separate path away from our lives; then we will lose out.

This is a unique season we find ourselves in. God is with us willing to reveal something new to us, or to remind us of something important we have forgotten about. Let's keep our eyes, hearts, and minds open to the Lord and what revelations he has for us.