

“Stay with Us”

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Luke 24:13–35
April 23, 2023.
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Stay with us Jesus, because it is getting dark. It is our invitation on this third Sunday of the Easter season, when we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The invitation is for all those who, upon hearing the story of the Holy Scriptures, feel the joy of being in the presence of God through his teachings.

The Road to Emmaus has become one of the most memorable stories in the Bible. This story is so real that, when reading it, we become part of the scene in which the Lord appears to two of his disciples in a meeting so fascinating that they are amazed. Many commentators and scholars of the Holy Scriptures explain that the disciples could not recognize the teacher because he was getting dark or because of the sadness and confusion they felt.

The disciples who were heading to Emmaus told Jesus of his despondency; they had lost hope in who they believed was going to be the liberator of Israel, and it was that he had already died three days ago. However, they also say that the women went to the tomb and found nothing and that some angels told them that Jesus was alive; still, they did not believe it.

Throughout time the Church has witnessed the loss of faith and hope, and knows that in many places the gospel is not producing abundant fruit. Despite this, we are sure that God is still in control and that he allows things to happen, not to punish us but to show us his love while we learn that difficulties are moments to trust and increase our faith.

In that Emmaus scene we see Jesus' courtesy with the disciples, his love in teaching them the Scriptures, their hospitality in inviting him to stay. It is the very message of the apostle Peter: “Now you, by obeying the message of truth, have purified yourself to sincerely love your brothers. So you should love each other with a pure heart and with all your might. For you have been born again, and this time not of human and mortal parents, but of the word of God,

which is living and permanent. There is a thought that says; "God has given us human beings the most valuable and at the same time the most dangerous gift, the freedom to invite Jesus into our lives or let him walk away." The decision is personal! Stay with me!

Jesus is still powerful in word and deed. Today's Church bears witness to how this word reaches people's hearts and transforms everything, turning men and women into disciples of Christ. Everything changes in the presence of God. The hearts of the disciples heading to Emmaus rejoice so impressively while they are on their way that they invite their companion to stay with them. What a fascinating company that of Jesus! The disciples want to continue listening and learning from his teachings.

The Holy Scriptures tell us what the presence of Jesus does in the life of a person, as it happened with the Apostle Peter according to the Acts of the Apostles: he announces with conviction to the people that Jesus, the crucified, is also Lord and Messiah . In this speech there was such divine power that thousands were brought to the obedience of faith and received baptism as a sign of conversion and obedience, they received a promise of life for their generations. Truly, when the eyes of sinners are opened, peace, transformation and love come.

The Emmaus passage, Jesus walks with the disciples and teaches them about the Scriptures, gives them peace and renews them, stays with them and takes bread at the table, gives thanks to God the Father and shares it. How blessed are we who are part of the Body of Christ, which is the Church! The scene on the road to Emmaus reveals to us the presence of the Risen One. Jesus opens the eyes of his disciples and fills their hearts with joy, and they receive the strength to go out with their companions to share the message that Jesus is indeed alive.

"Stay with us" Jesus, is our prayer. We need your help to motivate the world to be better Christians, to quench the thirst for justice, walk the path of love, break bread with those most in need, and provide company to those who are going through difficult and traumatic times. Christians are sure that Jesus appears in our lives and makes us understand his love, gives us

understanding and strength to continue on the path. But it also fills us with sadness to know that many people do not recognize the passage of Jesus by their side and are full of confusion living without faith or hope, because they lack the understanding to believe in God's promises.

"Stay with us" Jesus, in our homes so that there may be harmony and peace, in schools so that our children may be safe, in the Church so that we may live as true disciples. Stay, Lord, in every heart!

Like the prayer for the presence of Christ, in the Book of Common Prayer: "Stay with us Lord Jesus, now that the night is drawing near and the day has passed. Be our companion on the road, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, so that we may know you as you reveal yourself in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Grant this for your Name's sake. Amen".