

Devotions for May 9-15, 2011

Monday, May 9, 2011: *Journey* Daily reading: Luke 24:13-20

This story of the road to Emmaus prompts us to ask ourselves where we are in our faith journey. Where are we going? As a church, as a congregation, where have we been? What does our future look like? Does it match the vision God is directing? The power of God is at work among us through the cross and resurrection. How do we tell that story? Do our hearts burn with the good news of Christ? Are we willing to take the walk of faith with Jesus? Are we equipped to take the good news to others? As these disciples leave Jerusalem, they think they're distancing themselves from the troubles of the last days. How surprising that the risen Christ would meet right in the middle of their journey! No matter what your journey, across space and time, the risen Christ is with you. On your journey, be aware that Jesus Christ is present with you through the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to make you keenly aware that Jesus is with you.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011: *Corroboration* Daily reading: Luke 24:21-27

As Jesus encounters these disciples on the road to Emmaus, their story combines with the story of the women at the tomb, adding further strength to the conviction that is growing among them: Jesus is alive. The initial witness of the women at the tomb is expanding rapidly, and soon those who can corroborate the resurrection of Jesus will number in the thousands. When we're looking for something to believe in, it's helpful to have the corroboration of people we trust. We are bombarded by all kinds of information from many different sources every day, but we pay the most attention to sources we can trust. This text discusses the many people who can witness to the fact that Jesus is, indeed, alive. What kind of corroboration do you need to trust that Jesus is alive? Ask God to gift you with faith to trust that Jesus is alive.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011: *Experiential* Daily reading: Luke 24:28-32

The disciples have doubts. Their friend has been murdered; they saw it. But they experience the physical presence of the One they saw take his last breath. Their hearts burn within them. At the table, Christ reveals himself. The experience of being together, of breaking bread, reveals truths beyond the disciples' experience. This is what we may experience when we gather at the table for Holy Communion. It's amazing what we no longer see as we get farther and farther away from the cross and empty tomb. But in one remarkable instant, as the bread is broken, the disciples realize who is sitting with them! Jesus is revealed in the breaking of the bread. It is Jesus! Where is Christ revealed to you? Ask God to lead you to an experience revealing the presence of Jesus.

Thursday, May 12, 2011: *Tangible* Daily reading: Luke 24:33-35

How on earth could this happen? How does a dead man come back to life? The answer is rooted in faith that trusts that God can do what God says God can do. There are also eyewitness reports. Jesus travels with these two disciples. Both of them see Jesus. Both of them hear his voice. Both of them share a meal with him. And somehow, in the tangible breaking of bread, the intangible is understood in a new way. They are awestruck, so moved by what they experience, that they literally jump up from the table and make their way all the way back to Jerusalem that very night! They are so deeply riveted by the primal call back to the cross and empty tomb, back to the place of Christ's resurrection, that they run all the way to Jerusalem to tell their friends this primal story of the risen Christ. What are the tangible ways that you experience the presence of Christ every day? Ask God to touch you in a new and tangible way.

Friday, May 13, 2011: *Primal* Daily reading: Luke 24:36-43

This story is about the primal call into the kind of faith that gathers us at the table where Jesus reveals himself over and over again, in bread and in wine. It's also a primal call to move out and beyond a fragile faith that is never tested intellectually or experientially, and into that fire-in-the-belly kind of faith that gets us up from the table and out the door, running all the way back to the core of the story upon which 2,000 years of primal missional ministry is built. Jesus was dead. But now Jesus is alive and his message brings life, hope, grace and redemption to all people. This is a primal call to these two followers of Jesus; a call back to Jerusalem, back to the cross and empty tomb, back to the place where it all began. What are those things that are primal in your faith life? Ask God to build a fire in your belly for the call of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Saturday, May 14, 2011: *Back* Daily reading: Hebrews 12:1-2

We have a primal call forward into God's dream for the future church. The good news is that we can look to the future with hope and confidence because God is at work among us. Before we move ahead, we need to run back to the basics. Let's run back to Jerusalem, back to the cross and empty tomb, and consider this primal power of God at work in the world, and at work in us. Let's run back to those who might need corroboration, and tell them. Let's return to those who might need something tactile, and show them that Jesus makes a difference in our lives. Ask God to help you reclaim the true basics in your faith life as you begin to move forward.

Sunday, May 15, 2011: *Forward* Daily reading: Jeremiah 29:11

Pray about our direction as a church, and your place in this vision. Imagine a sun-drenched future full of the thrill of risk and obedience, full of all that God intends to do in and through us here for the sake of Jesus Christ. Ask the key question: "Where are you, and where will you be in this forward mission?" Pray that the primal power of the first-century resurrection will be unleashed among us. Ask God to help us live into a faith-filled 21st-century future with the raw, primal power of Christ at work in us. Pray for God to propel you into mission for the sake of the Kingdom.