

III Easter 4-15-18

The disciples recounted what had happened on the road to Emmaus and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel takes us back to Easter Sunday night. We believe that Jesus is present to us as we break the bread at this Eucharist. When we recognize his presence among us “in the flesh and blood of our lives, we are enabled to bring life to others.

One of the biggest changes in my life happened when Mom and Dad came to Carlyle. In their weakness, I was forced to think about **them**, their **care** – physical and mental – and to **be** someone who always gave them life. That was easier said than done. Linked to their suffering and needs, I become more focused, changed.

The only suffering the risen Jesus demands is the suffering that eventually leads to a resurrection right here and now. That happens when we suffer as he suffered – for others. His earliest followers simply said, **“If it worked for him, it’ll work for me.”**

As Tracy Grant, whose husband, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, said about her seven months of caregiving:

“...I haven’t started a foundation to cure cancer. I haven’t left the news business to get a medical degree. I work. I try to be there for my sons. I will never again have that high a purpose. But every day, I try again to be the person I became during those seven months. I try to be a little less judgmental, a little more forgiving and generous, a little more grateful for the small moments in my life. I am a better person for having been Bill’s caregiver. It was his last, best gift to me.”

Wherever and whenever true love is present, resurrection is experienced. Tracy experiences that sense of resurrection in her caring for her husband – and it changes her in a profound and beautiful way. Her loving generosity is a “witness” to the possibilities for such resurrection in her life and the lives of those she loves.

In the compassion and peace we are able to extend to those we love and who love us (OR NOT), we become “flesh and bone” signs of the hope and grace of Easter along the Emmaus roads we all walk. God is good...all the time. Let us follow the Christ in bringing the hope of the resurrection to all we encounter...right here and now...as we recognize him in the breaking of the bread today.