

Sermon on April 6, 2008
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A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Probably only the young kindergarteners can have such a confidence in how God looks like. Many grew-ups loss the confidence and become wondering about God at certain point even if they still have the faith, then until God meets them in their journey of life. This reminds me the journey of Cleopas and his friend on the road to Emmaus. Cleopas and his friend were sure that Jesus was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. They were sure that he was the redeemer of God's people. But when they saw Jesus was crucified and buried, they lost their confidence. They were still wondering about Jesus even after they heard the witness of the empty tomb and angels' proclaim of the resurrection of Jesus. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus came to them and they did not recognize him until that night when he broke the bread. This seven-mile road to Emmaus was a journey of the resurrected faith of Cleopas and his friend. It also reflects many aspects of our Christian faith journey.

The road to Emmaus is a road from wondering to certainty. Cleopas and his friend were among Jesus' inner circle of followers. They were once sure who Jesus was. Then, they saw Jesus' crucifixion. They knew Jesus was dead and buried. They were sad and wondering on their road to Emmaus. Probably resurrection was something so unthinkable and unbelievable that they found hard to accept these women's witness. They even could not recognize Jesus after only three days. Some one may argue that Jesus had changed dramatically after his resurrection. It may also be the case that they unwilling to recognize Jesus when he met them. It was the same for St. Thomas. He insisted that he would not believe Jesus was resurrected unless he could touch the marks of the nails in Jesus' hands and his side. No matter what their mental or psychological status was Jesus appeared to them as a stranger. At that night after they washed their faces, hands, and feet and were ready for dinner, this stranger took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, and then they recognized him. Their faith was restored and they immediately went back to Jerusalem and told the apostles what happened on the road, the road to Emmaus and the road to the resurrection of their faith.

Jesus told Cleopas and his friend how foolish they were and how slow of their hearts to believe. Are we sometimes also foolish and our hearts are slow to believe? Do we sometimes fail to see Jesus walking with us in our lives? Are we sometimes waiting for the bread-broken moment when our hearts can burn within us and our faith can be awakened? We are on the road to Emmaus. The road to Emmaus is a road of belief.

The road to Emmaus is a road of revelation.

The road to Emmaus is a road where Jesus meets us.

The road to Emmaus is a road of companionship.

The road to Emmaus is a road of healing.