**“Word Remaining”**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1:17-25

Luke 24:13-35

Easter 3

The last verse (conclusion) of the 1st Peter text: “the Word of the Lord remains forever. And this Word is the Good News that was preached to you.”

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

If I could **be** any Biblical character, one of the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus on the day of Easter would be **my wish**. I don’t even care if I’m the unnamed of the two (Cleopas getting named). Which I’d be is incidental, but to have a long (maybe as much as an 8 mile walk and talk with the resurrected Jesus on Easter, Him imparting to me Scripture in Himself / in its entirety, then Him breaking bread and serving me His own flesh in the Holy Supper and me, then, noticing Who this had been the whole time), that would be my **fondest desire**. I’d have to say that no hours of my life would ever compare (in any, much, close way) to **THOSE** **hours**.

**Text**

Today’s almost just a narrative of it all. Imagine it. Virtually **nothing**, we know, is **permanent**, and the Prophet that these two guys had hoped might work out was killed (He’d died). Who knows how long they’d been acquainted with the Lord (maybe part of the “seventy” or, at least, 120) but these two knew enough of Him to hope. They were “**sad**”, the text says. You could expect that. A generally slow and pensive walk home they had … and discussing **all they knew**.

And, **in that**, there was **confusion** and **mystery**. They’d gotten the resurrection message; women said they saw an angel at an empty tomb who said **Jesus was “alive”**. And Peter and John went and (sure enough) the tomb **was open and empty, they said**.

**Then** Jesus joined the walk. They were kept from recognizing Him yet, so the discussion (the Words) could do **its thing**, and He listened first to their fears and concerns and sadness, then **took over the conversation** (and, by the way, **THAT’S** the **entire purpose for this accounts’ writing: to SHOW JESUS’ WORDS AND, WITH THAT, HIS BREAKING OF BREAD, DOING ITS THING).**

….

“**Stay** **with us”, Jesus** … and “**He went in to stay with them” at their request**. They had the **memory of His teaching after He “vanished from their sight”** and the **recognition of Him in the breaking of the bread” (their “eyes opened”)**. “Did not our hearts **burn within us** while He (the risen and living Jesus) talked to us on the road / while He opened to us the Scriptures”, and they **moved because of it, running, maybe**, the 8 miles back to Jerusalem to join the brothers. The **risen Jesus, in person**, was their Easter gift but “vanished from sight”, the **memories and the burning in the heart hearing His Words of Scripture and having that broken bread from Him were given to never “vanish”**. The two **re-lived the afternoon in their telling to the brothers and in that remembering and telling for the rest of their lives**. The two **had** **that Word and Jesus’ voice and that Sacramental Meal forever in this life to carry them into the next**. There is something **permanent** …

… and **that’s** where the **Sermon Title** came from. 1st Peter tells us that “**the Word of the Lord remains forever**. And **this Word is the Good News that was preached to, even, you” (and I, and all to whom it falls who can hear)**. The Easter afternoon gift to two becomes the **gift to countless others in its repeating … the repeating of all Scripture that all is regarding Jesus**. And how **our “hearts can burn within us while Jesus talks”**.

Now, I know this because of the Acts text (and remember that the Acts of the Apostles are the results of the resurrection of Jesus / the Easter event like they are these days) and Peter **repeated** this **Scripture to all regarding Jesus**: “standing with the eleven, He lifted up His voice and **addressed” everyone around him with it**. And **when they heard, “they were cut to the heart”**, and “said to Peter and rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, **what shall we do?**’”

**Application**

That same permanent Word of Scripture can burn **OUR** hearts and cut, causing warmth and wonder and beauty … and change. While God provides believers with wisdom to discern and react to challenges and situations, he doesn’t leave us with **only the wisdom that He gives us**. He’s left us with **His divine Words (the Scriptures)**. And I seldom come to situations with my own ideas completely successful in meeting the challenges but have **Him to talk and instruct and guide and curb and direct and, sometimes (maybe lots) chastise me on my own directions**.

When I’m **sick**, I read of Him “going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and **healing** every disease and every affliction among the people”, and if I can accept **His timing and way of healing, I know He’ll do it, since He’s done it so before in various ways**.

When I’m **anxious** or **apprehensive**, or **afraid of the spooky options tomorrow might bring**. Jesus has said (and still does): “Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and **your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” Yes, indeed, you and I are!**

If I **feel lonely**, He says that **I’m never alone as His**. “I will ask the Father, and **He will give you another Help, to be with you forever**, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. **You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you**.”

When I feel **especially guilty and oppressed by my sins**, the Lord says (straight to my face after I cry to Him): “I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and **You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Blessed is** **the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity**, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

When I am **impatient**, I hear from Him: “**Be patient** until the coming of the Lord. **See how** the famer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, **until it** receives the early and the late rains.” I am glad that God is **patient with me, awaiting my full dependance upon Him for my eternal home that awaits me**.

When I am unsure of **how to be a husband**, “Husbands, **love your wives, and Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word**.”

If I feel **I’m missing something**: “I have learned in whatever situation to **be content**. **In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me**.”

When I **am discouraged**: “I **wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope**; **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning**” …

… and when **I don’t understand**: “Oh, **the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! But from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever**.”

And when **I doubt** (from verse 34 of Holy Scripture’s Gospel account … from the two disciples having had the afternoon with the risen Lord on Easter afternoon): “**The Lord is risen indeed**.”

And **we encourage each other with these Words (THE EVER REMAINING WORD): “Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!** **And amen**.