

Sermon

◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 2:14.22-33*

◆ **Second Reading:** *1 Peter 1:17-21*

◆ **Gospel:** *Luke 24:13-35*

1. EXPECTATIONS!!!, THE VERY MENTION OF THE WORD “EXPECTATION” AND I IMMEDIATELY THINK OF MY MOTHER, SHE USED TO SAY “EXPECT NOTHING AND YOU’LL BE DISAPPOINTED”!!, I WONDER DID OUR LADY EVER SAY THE SAME TO HER SON AS HE GREW UP IN NAZARETH!!!, MAYBE!, MAYBE NOT!

Most likely Jesus learned the hard way during His public ministry, He expected His disciples to grasp the meaning of the parables. Unfortunately that expectation fell flat on its face the first time round. In st.Mark’s Gospel chapter 4, He presents the parable of the sower to the people, the apostles were present, listening to the parable. Jesus expected the Twelve to understand the parable, they didn’t. Later on, alone with the apostles, He said to them “DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THIS PARABLE?., THEN HOW WILL YOU UNDERSTAND ANY OF THE PARABLES?” ;

Then there was another expectation, Jesus expected his apostles to support Him in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (st.Mark’s 14 ;34), His soul was sorrowful to the point of death, his expectation met with disappointment, they fell asleep!! “HAD YOU NOT THE STRENGTH TO KEEP AWAKE ONE HOUR?” ...

Then to add more pain to His oncoming arrest, they all abandoned Him and ran away.

In to-day's Gospel reading, the "EMMAUS STORY", the tide of expectation now turns against the Risen Christ. The two men on their way to a village called Emmaus are joined by a "stranger" who doesn't seem to know about the things that happened in Jerusalem "these last few days", the stranger asks "WHAT THINGS?" "ALL ABOUT JESUS OF NAZ-ARETH.." they answered. Now here comes the disappointment of their expectation "OUR OWN HOPE HAD BEEN THAT HE WOULD BE THE ONE TO SET ISRAEL FREE"!!. In other words they expected Jesus to rise up with some sort of army to liberate the Jews from Roman tyranny, but Our Lord wasn't a military leader ; later on at the inn the two travelers recognized Him at the breaking of bread, all expectations had been turned upside down from start to finish.....

2. what are your expectations during these days of the Pandemic?? Do you expect to return to work soon?, that is, if you still have a job to go back to!!, Do you expect the government to "solve it all"?, but they also are just as susceptible to the virus as the rest of us and unsure about making decisions, so when do you expect results?? Perhaps in the course of these last 6 weeks you expected some illuminated medical researcher to say "NOT TO WORRY EVERYONE, WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE OUT OF THIS VERY SOON"!!, hard luck and another expectation plummets!!

As believers in the Risen Lord, what should our expectations be??, expect that the Lord-of-Life knows exactly what's going on in the midst of this Pandemic, as He knew exactly what was going on between His own people and the Romans during 1st century Palestine : also expect that the Lord-of-life will stick to His promises, take to heart His last words before ascending to Heaven "AND KNOW THAT I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, YES! TO THE END OF TIME"

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Do you believe that??, because if you and I truly believe in the promises and the words of the Lord-of-Life, then He has an expectation from us who claim to be His followers, surely He expects us to remain loyal to our Faith in Him as our Saviour, no! not the Saviour to save us from a Pandemic, but rather the Saviour who will keep us encouraged and hopeful in the midst of a very serious situation, and with our Faith intact may we often say daily “WITH THE LORD ON OUR SIDE ALL WILL BE WELL” or perhaps you’d prefer to use the words of to-days responsorial to the psalm “SHOW US, LORD, THE PATH OF LIFE”

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