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| Luke 24:13-35  | Do the Deed !! | Pinelands – 9am – 23/04/2023Thornton – 10:30am – 23/04/2023 |

This morning I would like to start with **a story** from when…

 There were… **No** Cell Phones

 **No** Personal Computors

 **No** News Papers to share news…

This is a **LEGEND…** from **not too long ago…**

About **a king** who decided to set aside a special day…

 to honor his greatest subject.

When the big day arrived, a large gathered, in the palace courtyard.

 **Four finalists** were brought forward, and from these four,

the king would **select the winner.**

**The first person** presented was a **wealthy philanthropist**.

The king was told that this man was highly deserving of the

 honor because of his humanitarian efforts.

He had given much of his wealth to the poor.

**The second person** was a **celebrated physician.**

The king was told that this doctor was highly deserving of

 the honor because he had rendered faithful and dedicated

 service to the sick for many years.

**The third person** was a **distinguished judge.**

The king was told that the judge was worthy because he was

 noted for his wisdom, his fairness,

and his brilliant, just decisions.

**The fourth person** presented was **an elderly woman.**

*Everyone was quite surprised to see her there,*

 because her manner was quite humble, as was her dress.

 She **hardly looked** the part of someone who would

 **be honored** as the **greatest subject** in the kingdom.

What chance could she possibly have, when compared to the other three, who had accomplished so much? Even so, there was something about her, the look of love in her face, the understanding in her eyes, her quiet confidence.

The king was intrigued, to say the least, and somewhat puzzled by her presence. He asked who she was.

The answer came: ***“You see the philanthropist, the doctor,***

***and the judge? Well, she was their teacher!”***

That woman had no wealth, no fortune, and no title,

**but she** had unselfishly given her life to produce great people.

There is nothing more powerful or more Christ-like

 than sacrificial love.

**Many** could not see the value in the humble lady.

***They missed the significance of the teacher.***

***Often we miss the value and significance of those around us.***

It is **NO surprise** that we often **MISS** the Presence of Christ…

 *(We spoke about that on Easter Sunday…*

*Do we Recognise Jesus in our midst?)*

Cleopas and his brother missed the significance…

**of the stranger** on the road to Emmaus.

The disciples did not recognize Jesus… **WHY?…**

 ***Maybe…*** - He was *different*

 - There was *something new*

 - Because it was on the road

- *Not what they expected*

The world often does not recognize Jesus… **WHY?…**

 For the same reasons…

 - Different from what they expect

 - something new…cannot handle

We often do not recognize Jesus for exactly the same reasons…

 - *It is not what we expect*

 - *different to what we have learnt or been taught*

 - We do not expect Jesus on the Road…

We, the world, often have an image of…

***Christianity, God, Jesus…***

 And we have **put it or Him in a box…**

 That is what it is, how it looks

 The way a Christian behaves and acts

 How God must operate, act and intervene

In our minds, our teaching, our thinking…

 ***We have already decided…***

Who God is, How he must operate, act and work

 The way Christians must be

Anything that happens outside of that frame work…

 ***Just cannot be God, Jesus, Divine***

***God has given us the BASICS…***

***and we have turned the basics into ABSOLUTES.***

**Notice where** the disciples first meet Jesus… **ON THE ROAD.**

 While they are traveling…

 *In general conversation / the normal place*

*/ the everyday place.*

 Where do you expect to meet Jesus…?

 In church / Evangelistic campaign / Cell group

**What about…**

 On the street corner, In the shopping isle,

 In the conference room, on the sports field,

In the pub In the everyday place

***What is your road?* Your place of normal?**

***BUT…* what is more important is…**

**Notice HOW** the disciples recognized Jesus…

 ***Not the…*** Way he looked or What he wore,

Way he spoke, or What he spoke about.

As they share in the ***ordinary activity*** of a meal…

 As Jesus says the blessing, **BREAKS THE BREAD**

 and shares with them… they recognize him.

**It is…** in the ordinary **ACT** of a meal…they recognize Jesus

 The way he **DID** things

 The way he interacts… They see Jesus

**As Christians** we accept that we are saved…

That Jesus lives within us…

 Therefore… **People *should* see Jesus in us**

 **People *should* recognize Jesus in us**

 ***In…*** The way we **do things**

 **What we do** and how we do it.

DO WE… Do the Deeds that show we are Christians?

***Do people recognize Jesus in you?***

 Because of what you **DO?**

There is a **balance** we need to get right…

 **BEING a Christian…** That is *WHO we are*

And… **DOING** what a Christian should **DO**

 **Doing the DEEDs** we are called to do

***Two Stories to conclude today’s Message…***

First Story… About **Jack**

**Jack was late for work…**

 He over **slept…** through the alarm.

 Spilled his breakfast coffee over his new shirt…

 Then the dog got out…

 Then could not find a document he needed

 **He was late…** In a rush…

 Running to catch the train…

 As it was pulling out of the station.

**OOPS !!! In his rush…**

He knocked over a young school boy…

 Shattering a completed jigsaw puzzle over the platform.

**BUT…** **He was late for work.**

As he ***looked back*** he **saw the tears in the boys eyes**

 As he began to pick up all the spilled pieces.

**BUT…** **He was late…**

 **What made him do it?…** He did not know…

 **BUT he *JUMPED* off the train…**

 Walked back to the boy, bent down,

 Began to help him pick up the puzzle pieces

The boy looked up at the man, through his tears… **he asked…**

 ***“Excuse me sir… Are you Jesus?”***

It is in ***WHAT WE DO….*** That people will see Jesus !!

**Do people see Jesus in you… IN *and* BY WHAT YOU DO ?**

**Second Story… Is about a little Boy**

A little boy who decided he wanted to find God.

He knew it would *probably be a long trip,*

 so he decided to pack a lunch…

**four** packs of Twinkies and **two** cans of coke.

**He set out** on his journey and went a few blocks…

until he came to a park.

On one of the park benches sat an old woman…

 looking at the pigeons.

The little boy sat down beside her and watched the pigeons too.

When he grew hungry, he pulled out some Twinkies.

As he ate, he *noticed the woman watching him…*

**so he offered her one.**

She accepted it gratefully and **smiled at him.**

 He thought she had the ***most beautiful smile*** in the world.

*Wanting to see it again*, he opened a can of coke…

***and offered her the other one.***

***Once again she smiled that beautiful smile***.

For a long time the two sat on that park bench…

eating Twinkies, drinking coke, smiling at each other,

 and watching the pigeons…***Neither said a word.***

**Finally,** the little boy realized that it was getting late…

he needed to go home.

 He started to leave, *took a few steps,*

*turned back* and ***gave the woman a big hug.***

*Her smile was brighter than ever before.*

When he arrived home, his *mother noticed that he was happy,* but strangely quiet. She asked, *‘What did you do today?’*

*‘Oh, I had lunch in the park with God,’* he said.

Before his mother could reply, he added,

*‘You know, she has the most beautiful smile in the world.’*

Meanwhile, the old woman left the park and returned to her home.
*Her son noticed something different about her.*

 He asked… *‘What did you do today, Mom? ’*

*‘Oh, I ate Twinkies and drank coke in the park with God.”*And before her son could say anything at all, she added,

*‘You know, God’s a lot younger than I imagined.’”*

It was in **WHAT…**

God **DID** upon the Cross that… People saw JESUS

Jesus **DID** in the miracles that… People saw JESUS

Jesus **DID** around the table that… Cleopas and his brother…

 Saw JESUS.

It was in **WHAT…**

People **DO** in life that… Others will see JESUS

It is in ***WHAT WE DO….*** That people will see Jesus !!

**Do people see Jesus in YOU… BY WHAT YOU DO ?**

***Do the Deed !!***

***Luke 24:13-35 The Walk to Emmaus***

On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. Jesus said to them, “What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?”

They stood still, with sad faces. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth,” they answered. “This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything he said and did. Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and he was crucified. And we had hoped that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free! Besides all that, this is now the third day since it happened. Some of the women of our group surprised us; they went at dawn to the tomb, but could not find his body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some of our group went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

Then Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?” And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.

As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; but they held him back, saying, “Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark.” So he went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”

They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others and saying, “The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!”

The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.