

ON THE ROAD AND AT THE TABLE

(Luke 24:13-35)

Intro: Charles Kuralt.

- Former reporter for CBS News.
- Known for his *On the Road* pieces.
 - #Including at least two books.
 - #Interesting stories.
 - *From out-of-the-way places.

Luke has an on-the-road piece.

- In our Gospel lesson for this morning.
- Two of Jesus' disciples had an unusual experience.
 - #They encountered the risen Christ.
 - *On the road.
 - *At the table.

I. On The Road.

A. That's Where Jesus' Disciples Were.

1. Two of them, anyway.
 - a. Cleopas.
 - Otherwise unknown in Holy Scripture.
 - b. Unnamed disciple.
2. On the road to Emmaus.
 - a. Village whose whereabouts is in dispute.
 - Among Biblical scholars.
 - b. Some sources:
 - 60 stadia from Jerusalem.
 - #About seven miles.
 - c. Other sources.
 - 160 stadia from Jerusalem.
 - #About 20 miles away.
3. They were headed home.
 - a. Away from:
 - Jerusalem.
 - Temple.
 - b. After Jesus':
 - Crucifixion.
 - Burial.

4. They were feeling:
 - a. Sad.
 - b. Hopeless.
 - They had been to a funeral.
 - #Jesus' funeral.
 - *If it could be called that.
 - #Funeral of the one:
 - *They considered a prophet.
 - *They hoped would redeem Israel.
 - +Liberate them from Roman rule.
 - Pardon a most imperfect parallel.
 - #Now that Osama bin Laden is dead.
 - *One some hoped:
 - +Would liberate them from the perceived:
 - =Evil empire of the United States.
 - *What will happen to his disciples?
 - +Now that their leader is dead.
 - #That's what Jesus' disciples must have been wondering.
5. They were on the road.
 - a. Road home.
 - b. Road of grief.
 - c. Road of hopelessness.
 - d. Road of despair.
6. Jesus appeared to them.
 - a. Not as a prophet.
 - b. But as the risen Christ.
7. But they didn't recognize him.
 - a. How could this be?
 - Jesus' tomb was empty.
 - #Some women of their acquaintance had found it so.
 - Since the testimony of women was not always accepted.
 - #Other disciples:
 - *Checked it out.
 - *Verified their story.
 - Vision of angels had proclaimed:
 - #Jesus was alive.
 - b. But these two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
 - Didn't see.
 - Didn't believe.
 - Were on a dead-end road.

B. What Road Are We On?

1. After:
 - a. Easter.
 - b. Hearing again the proclamation that Jesus is alive.
2. As we go out.
 - a. From:
 - Our temple.
 - Our Jerusalem.
 - b. To:
 - Our homes.
 - Our schools.
 - Our places of employment.
 - Our activities.
3. Are we on a road of:
 - a. Grief?
 - b. Hopelessness?
 - c. Despair?
4. Where:
 - a. Do we encounter the risen Christ?
 - b. Does the risen Christ encounter us?
5. In my Easter homily.
 - a. Two weeks ago.
 - b. I talked about how God is loose in the world.
 - In Galilee.
 - In the world.
 - Ahead of us.
 - c. I shared examples:
 - Some had seen God in nature.
 - Others had seen the presence of God in other people.
 - #Family.
 - #Friends.
 - Katherine Tooley had seen God at Reasor's grocery store.
 - #In a man who had helped her with items on high shelves.
 - I had seen God in my granddaughter Sophia.
6. As we are on the road.
 - a. Are we always aware of these God moments?
 - b. Are we like the disciples on the road to Emmaus?
 - We don't see.
 - We don't believe.
 - We're on a dead-end road.

II. We Also Need To Encounter The Risen Christ At The Table.

A. Two Disciples.

1. Didn't recognize Jesus on the road.
 - a. Through his suffering.
 - He entered into glory.
 - b. In his glory.
 - Jesus appeared to them.
 - c. That's not what they expected.
 - One who could:
 - #Appear.
 - *Disappear.
 - #Be crucified.
 - *Live again.
2. It was only as Jesus:
 - a. Opened the Scriptures.
 - b. Broke the bread.
 - They were able to see.
 - They came to believe.
 - They were no longer on a dead-end road.
3. They had to do something about their spiritual heartburn.
 - a. They got up from the table.
 - b. They went back to Jerusalem.
 - 7 miles?
 - 20 miles?
 - #No matter that it had been too late.
 - *For Jesus to travel any further on that Easter evening.
 - #They had to tell:
 - *Somebody.
 - *Everybody.
 - +Jesus was alive.
 - +They had seen him:
 - =On the road.
 - =At the table.

B. We Need To Look For The Risen Christ In Both Places.

1. On the road, yes.
 - a. In Galilee.
 - b. In the world.
 - c. Out there.
 - d. Ahead of us.

2. But not to the exclusion of the table.
 - a. It's not either/or.
 - We encounter the risen Christ:
 - #On the road.
 - #Or at the table.
 - b. It's both/and.
 - We encounter the risen Christ:
 - #On the road.
 - #And at the table.
 - In fact, it is often at the table.
 - #As:
 - *Scripture is opened.
 - *Bread is broken.
 - *Wine is poured.
 - #We can:
 - *Make sense of what has happened on the road.
 - *Where we can move beyond our preconceived ideas.
 - +Where.
 - +How.
 - =We expect to encounter God.
 - *Be:
 - +Inspired.
 - +Empowered.
 - *To go back on the road.
 - *To Jerusalem.
 - *To share:
 - +What makes our hearts burn within us.
 - +Where and how.
 - =We have encountered the risen Christ.
 - On the road.
 - At the table.
3. I remember one inmate at the St. Louis County Jail.
 - a. Reading his Bible.
 - Especially the New Testament.
 - b. Wishing he had lived in the first century.
 - At the time of Jesus.
 - Making it easier:
 - #To see Jesus.
 - #To believe in the risen Christ.
 - c. I suggested:
 - We sit down together.
 - We read together the story of *The Walk to Emmaus*.
 - #We did.

- d. Then I asked him:
 - What advantage did those two disciples have over us?
 - Didn't they come to:
 - #See.
 - #Believe.
 - *In the same way we do.
 - *Through:
 - +Opening Scripture.
 - +Breaking the bread.

Concl: So get out on the road.

- Risen Christ is loose in the world.
 - #In Gallilee.
 - #Out there.
 - #Ahead of you.

But don't neglect to come back to the table.

- Again.
- Again.
- Again.
 - #For:
 - *Opening Scripture.
 - *Breaking the bread.
 - *Sharing.
 - #Where.
 - #How.
 - *You have encountered the risen Christ.
 - *Risen Christ has encountered you.

Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

- On the road.
- At the table.

