

The Road to Emmaus

Once the ministry of Christ began in earnest, He was constantly besieged by those who wanted His attention. He managed to get time alone to pray to God, but whenever He was in the presence of people He knew that they acted differently around Him.

After His resurrection, He had a few encounters with some who did not immediately recognize Him, but in none of these instances was such that an evaluation could be made of their character.

The time that He met some disciples on the road to Emmaus was different. For the first time He spent a considerable amount of time with people who had no idea who He was. He walked with them, listening to them gush about recent events and watching their enthusiasm in a faith that was very new to them. Think of His pleasure as He witnessed first hand how they shared that faith without knowing who He actually was. And they demonstrated their commitment to Good by offering their hospitality (actually, being very insistent about it) to Him as a stranger in need of comfort.

Perhaps you are reminded of the passage in Matthew 25 where the effect of our Goodness to others is redirected to Christ Himself. Here, as in the Emmaus story, we are blessed if these actions are a natural part of us and not just because we are under the Master's gaze.

There is a parallel to the communion in which we participate today. It is one thing to acknowledge the sacrificial actions of Christ when a big deal is made of it (as in this ceremony). But we need to ask ourselves if we follow the same path all during the week. If we don't, then why would Christ be pleased that for a just moment, when we feel His attention on us, we go through the motions of proper worship? We must always strive to be Good to all men at all times and so reflect the sacrifice of Christ that is represented by the bread and blood that we symbolically participate in here.