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Challenge Day 14 of 40

Thoughts by Terry Swenson - Loma Linda, USA.

“Now on that same day two [followers of Jesus] were going to a village called Emmaus, about 7 miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.” Mt. 24:13-16 RSV

Two Jesus-followers were slowly headed home, heavy with disbelief and disappointment. All their hopes crushed. All their dreams disintegrated. Again and again they rehearsed all that had transpired. Perhaps their hearts questioned how God and Jesus could have let them down like that. What were they supposed to do with their lives now? How could they face the future? Where was Jesus when they needed Him?

I know that I have been in the same kind of spot in my life. I faced a future prospect that I feared greatly and didn’t know what to do about it. Taking stock of my own capabilities and resources, I knew I didn’t have what it would take. No one could help me. I couldn’t help myself. Trapped. Afraid. Alone. Or so I thought.

That night I had a dream. I was walking through a dark, dense forest along a narrow dirt path. I came to a sunny, green meadow. The path proceeded through the middle of it. But in the center, my way was blocked by a tall, ominous black cloud. I was terrified to pass through it, but I had no other option. I heard a voice from behind me say, “Embrace the
I turned to see Jesus speaking to me. I hadn’t known that He was there before. Once again, He said, “Embrace the cloud!” Timidly, I did as He commanded. I walked forward to the darkness and embraced it. Immediately, it dissipated into millions of sparkles and disappeared!

Scripture tells us that those two fearful and downhearted disciples were not traveling down the road alone. Jesus was with them. He was there all the time.

“Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the Scriptures.” Mt. 24:27 RSV

I was traveling down life’s troubled road. I came to that trial and was frozen in fear because I thought I was alone. But I wasn’t alone. Jesus was with me. He was there all the time.

Where are you on your life’s journey? In a dark, lonely place? Is your way blocked? Have your resources failed? Turn and let the Spirit open your eyes. You aren’t alone! Jesus is with you! He is there ALL the time! Hold close to these words of Paul in Romans 8:38, 39 NLT:

“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Recalibrate

1. What are you facing in your life that is beyond your capabilities to deal with? What do you think Jesus would say to you about it?

2. If you really grasped Jesus’ love for you and that nothing can separate the two of you, how would that affect the way you dealt with the dark things in your life?
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