

Lenten Bible Study 2024

March 18, 2024

Lesson Five: “But We Had Hoped” and “You Know Everything”

From “Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories” by Debie Thomas

Lighting the Candle as we journey during Lent together . . . Come Holy Spirit!

Opening Prayer

Introduction to the lesson:

We continue with our last two resurrection accounts for our lessons today. Both speak to our disciples who are struggling with the events and how they are to move on. As we draw close to Easter, how are we struggling and where do we find Jesus along our way?

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Here we meet two of the disciples on their way to Emmaus, when a stranger unknown to them meets up with them to hear their thoughts. It is the Master, who tells of Jesus’s ministry and only is recognized when they eat. Why has Jesus remained unknown? What are they saying to each other? What do they need to know? What had they hoped?

Book Study: read “But We Had Hoped” (pgs. 194-197)

- 1) In what circumstances have you or might you use the words “but we had hoped . . . “ ?
- 2) Our author calls the road to Emmaus the road of failure and brokenness, and yet a sacred road that leads to possibilities and revelation? How do we find both in this Easter story?
- 3) What does Jesus do here for the weary and defeated? Our author notices four things that she describes in our reading: what are her findings? What do they mean for us today?
- 4) The chapter ends with “when Jesus lingers at your door, honoring your freedom, but yearning to feed you, say what he longs to hear: Stay.” What is your reaction to her ending?

Scripture Reading: John 21:1-19, 20-25

We now read John's last chapter, not only of another encounter with the Risen Christ, but the concluding message for Peter, and John's reason for writing, as the Witness to the truth. What is the purpose for the first part, the fishing expedition? What do we find out about Jesus? Peter? The disciples? Later, how is Peter reinstated as the shepherd to the people? How do you feel about John's ending?

Book Study: read **"You Know Everything"** (pgs.198-200)

- 1) Our author talks about the shame we feel when we've been disobedient or have let someone down; when we've denied our feelings or hurt someone else's. What do we need to do then? How do we repair "the damage"? What ways have we found for "reinstatement"?
- 2) In this chapter, our author is helping us to see the relationship between Peter and Jesus. When Peter goes out to fish at night, what do you think he is thinking about? Are you surprised when he goes to Jesus so willingly when Jesus is revealed?
- 3) What does Jesus offer Peter when he asks him: "Do you love me?"
- 4) What does Peter mean when he replies: "Lord, You know everything."

Conclusions: Peter's shame and guilt met Jesus's love and grace and their relationship was restored with dignity and possibility. Jesus comes with that same grace and unconditional love to meet us all, and challenges us to then extend this to all others. This Holy Week let us be ever mindful of those in need of the Risen Savior and invite them in to meet Jesus.

Closing Prayers