

Date: March 29, 2026

Texts: Psalm 118. 19-29 / Luke 24. 28-31

Title: "Sight"

Intro -

per Helmut Thielicke (1908 - 1986) -

"We should not artificially turn away from our [worries] by constantly listening to the radio, for example, or running to the movies, or some other kind of busywork, but rather - direct our cares to him who wills to bear, and share, all our sin and all our suffering... and therefore - all our cares. No diversion, but directing our cares.

This is what to do. Jesus did not say: Look at the ostrich, how it buries its head in the desert sand and so tries to escape the fear of danger. No, he said: Look at the birds of the air, keep your eyes open, stand up straight and look to the heights where God makes known his grace and care."

are we in a position to "see..."?

are we creating... have we created...

the circumstances whereby we might finally "get it..."?

where we finally have that "aha moment" ...?

(and - to be clear - an "aha" moment that actually means something...

as opposed to reading Agatha Christie and figuring out

that the butler did it... or -

playing Wordle and getting it on the second try - because, let's be

honest - the first try is pure luck...))

no -

Thielicke, and - these disciple -

speak to us about having our eyes open to eternity...

relate per these disciples -

it might be said that they had turned away from their worries...

they had left Jerusalem, and the sorrows of the crucifixion
and were heading back home... to Emmaus...
maybe to start over again

but -

while they might not have embraced their worries...
they were at least open to “the diversion” that came upon
their path...
they engaged with this stranger...
and - found that that - was all it took...

l) To Act the Host...

cf. - in 1993, President Bill Clinton hosted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin
and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at Camp David...

after much negotiating, they had arrived at
the Oslo Peace Accord - detailing plans for a
better... more peaceful... mideast

in some regards - this was a huge deal

- marking the first formal recognition between Israel and the PLO

it led to what was - at the time - a very famous handshake

between Rabin and Arafat

what it did not lead to...

... was any lasting change

perhaps because -

while we focused on the handshake

(lots of people still think it was significant...)

Rabin and Arafat were probably each thinking to themselves:

“I’m sure glad we didn’t have to sit down and share a meal
with each other...

A handshake...?

Big deal...”

but a meal... shared...?

in the ancient Mideast, as it is today -
to share a meal is an act of peace...
to invite a person into your home... to break bread...
is an act of welcome that goes beyond words...
beyond handshakes... beyond treaties...
and speaks to a lasting change in the nature of
the relationship
- sadly...
that did not happen

relate per Jesus and these two disciples -
while *Jesus* is urged to stay...
seems to be the guest...
once seated, he acts the role of the host...
breaks bread...
and they recognized him

relate - it can be tempting to see what's going on here as a
celebration of communion...
(we celebrated it... pretty much for this reason...)

but -

this is really just a meal shared...
(so much more significant than a handshake...)
- a meal at which these disciples - previously clueless -
were made to feel welcome, and -
suddenly -
they had the gift of sight...
it all came clear...
they saw...
(and it wasn't the butler...
it was Jesus!)

II) The Act of Welcoming

which brings to mind a Palm Sunday question:

- how have *you been* “welcomed into” understanding...?
- *what was it that* opened your eyes?

and -

- what can *you do* to help others to see?

cf. -

as I propose:

there are many acts... many possibilities...

but they are all related to / connected to -

one grace:

the grace of seeing Jesus...

the grace of receiving in our lives...

... what it is that Jesus offers

so - back to that question:

- what is your story?

cf. - as we see here, it does not have to be complicated

it does not have to include a miraculous call out of

an addictive life, itself the result of a semi-miraculous

healing that led to dependencies and which tore apart

your family, but - praise God! -

you saw the light...

you walked toward it...

you were saved.

cf. - which is not to say that cannot have happened, but...

here -

they sat at a table and broke a loaf of bread

the act of a life-changing welcome...

starts with the simplest of gestures

think back...

what can you celebrate...?

for what can you give thanks...?
because it opened your eyes, such that
you "saw"
(or - at least - began to see...)

and then...

what can you do... ? what can we do... ?
to "pay it forward"?

where is "welcome" needed in your family...?
in our community...?
in our larger circle of contacts...?

cf. - if we wanted to, I guess we could make it complicated...
you know - some sort of 16-step procedure, outlined in a manual,
which is part of course, and costs \$99.95
for a 7-week commitment...

or -

we could invite someone to church...
(we could invite someone to brunch *after* church...
which might make them feel pressured to *come* to church...
- you can ask Kingsleys and McCurdys about that...)

we could ask if someone wants to help at a Community Dinner, or
on a Habitat Build Day...

we could help a neighbor shovel snow...

we could...
open the door, and not just say "welcome"
but -
"do" welcome...

in all the variety of ways it can be done -
all of which speak to the one grace that we celebrate
in Jesus