**Jesus Revealed in Bread and Juice, Luke 24:35-48**

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| **Slide #** | **SERMON** |
| 1 | Title slide Theme statement: The breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup reveals to us the risen Lord. |
| 2 | Simple statement – True – but is it really?  **How can taking the bread, breaking it and consuming it reveal God to us?**  Scripture texts of last week and this week give some answers. |
| 3 | First – our eyes can only be opened to see Jesus in this bread if we know the story, the Gospel events. In other words, we know the Scripture and to know it we have to immerse ourselves in it daily.  The image of a bath comes to mind – bath or shower – before it’s over you want every square inch of your body touched by the water.  To see the risen Christ in the sacrament, we want to have every part of our being touched by scripture – And that’s an ongoing daily process – ever -so-slowly opening the Book and reading (and or turning on the tape and listening)  Doing this since last Sunday particularly will have helped you prepare for communion today. |
| 4 | EX: It’s like the philosophy behind getting a liberal arts education – one intent of a liberal arts education is to expose a student to the height and breath of knowledge and experience – to encourage and teach one multiple ways of thinking so that as a person grows in life he/she will have the tools to deal with new encounters and challenges (To put them in another’s shoes). |
| 5 | To be steeped in Scripture gives us a frame of reference/interpretation, or the tools if you will, to see and know God’s active presence in given situations – to be open to God’ revelation.  EX: Nathan held Phillippe in his arms as he slept during an Easter vigil mass. Philippe’s body was severely distorted. He could not speak, walk, dress or fee himself and needed help every second of his waking hours. But as the celebration grew and the shouts of Hallelujah, Jesus is Risen increased, Philippe woke up and he started howling and his howling got louder. He began to disturb the worship. Finally, Nathan had to take him home. Philippe with genetic malformations; had seemingly nothing to contribute to life while drawing away attention and resources. |
| 6 | But Henri Nowen who shares this story says that in the midst of the Easter vigil he saw in Philippe what we proclaim in the Easter Story.  “All of us are like Philippe,” Nowen said, “even you and me – we all will give this imperfect, worn, frail, bodies we have to God and in Christ they’ll be transformed and made new. We are all loved by God, we can be used for His glory.”  The way we look at people and hold them in regard has much to do with how we will know and read the Scripture. Do you have a Biblical frame of reference to look for the Risen Christ in the events and people of this world? |
| 7 | The disciples had the frame of reference but had either forgotten it or dismissed it in the midst of their grief and confusion.  But upon hearing it again – the puzzle pieces fell into place. Then they saw the risen Lord – nail prints and all – breaking bread, Jesus eating fish. |
| 8 | But how do we see Jesus in the bread and juice? for many it is just coming to the altar or at your home, taking a bit of bread eating it and follow it by some juice. And that is about it.  You might say we have forgotten the scripture like the disciples did before the risen Jesus had revealed himself to them. And in remembering the scripture, how it pointed to Jesus including his terrible death and then his resurrection, their faith became strong and determined. |
| 9 | Part of the remembering of Jesus' life was remembering the last night he ate the Passover meal with them. In that major Jewish event, where they recall God's liberation from slavery, they remember how far they had wondered from God and God's desire to have them live in the Promised Land. As Jesus and the disciples shared that meal, two things happen  1. First recognizing God is the creator of all, is a wonderful, compassionate God who loved Israel and called them into covenant with Him.  2. Secondly, there is a remembrance of the people's sin! |
| 10 | Today in Communion we pray for mercy because of our sin that separates us from God. In the prayer listen to what the reality is:  - **We have not love you with our whole heart**. Think for a moment how divided our love is. We love things. we love family members more than God. We love our station in life more than God. |
| 11 | -**We have failed to be an obedient church and not done your will.** Just think of how many times we have gotten into trouble over Center's last 197 years because we did it our way instead of obeying God!  **- We have broken your law and rebelled against your love**. Gosh, when we look at the10 commandments, how many of them have we broken and rationalized that the outcome justified our actions? |
| 12 | **- We have not loved our neighbors, not heard the cry of the needy.** We have reams of historical documents of how we treated the Native Americans during the time the US was founded, how we treated the Afro Americans during slavery and Jim Crowe era, how we built the railways across the country on the backs of the oriental immigrants, how we rounded up the Japanese during WWII and how we resent people who have a different sexual orientation that we do. And these examples say nothing of our many personal sins like unfaithfulness, misrepresenting ourselves, cheating on our taxes, abusing our spouse and / or children, lying to our friends to make ourselves look better, fighting with family members over estate issues, etc. |
| 13 | When we remember that God still loves us even in the mist of our outrageous sin, that Jesus would go to the cross on our behalf, die and be raised to new life, then it becomes crystal clear that God wants us and yearns for us --- even though we don't deserve it at all. |
| 14 | The disciples were all reeling from guilt and remorse over Jesus' death and their participation in it. Blinded by tears and seeing the impossible figure of Jesus in front of them, it took remembering the scriptures for them to see the resurrected, conqueror of death. |
| 15 | And in seeing Jesus come back from the dead. They remember with Jesus' help what he did during that Passover meal. He took Bread, broke it and gave it to them and said, when you eat this bread remember it is my body broken for you. When you drink this cup remember it is my blood poured out for you! Jesus gave them and us a tangible way to experience what he went through for the disciples and for us! No wonder the two Emmaus disciples had an epiphany when Jesus broke the bread! They could see and feel Jesus dying on that cross for them. |
| 16 | Today, when we break the bread, we literally see God's demonstrated love for us. His only son dying for our sins. When we drink the cup, we see and feel Jesus' blood streaming down his head from the crown of thorns, the blood coming out of his whipped back and body, the blood stained nail that ripped through his hands and feet. Dare we look at our own hands to see if blood stains are there? All this necessary because we are sinners and only by God's grace in Jesus can we possibly be saved! It is heart wrenching to us that there was no other way than for God to die on a cross for us! And just think, most of the time we live in this world feeling pretty good about how reputable and great we are!!! Yet, Jesus knew what was required and prayed that he didn't have to go to the cross, but he followed God's will and took all our sins on his blood stained body for our sake even though he was sinless!  When we remember the scripture, how God was working from the days of Adam and Eve until even today to offer salvation and eternal life, then we will recognized Jesus as the risen savior. |
| 17 | When we take this bread and this juice into our mouths we suddenly realize the depth of God's love for us and I hope you are convicted by your part that you played in Jesus' death and overwhelmed by the saving grace afforded you by Jesus' resurrection! |
| 18 | And in seeing the risen Lord – what was the disciple’s response?  Two-fold –  First – Share with other disciples and friends of Jesus  Second – Share with the world.  This revelation of Jesus, particularly the breaking bread, made them want to tell it to their friends. |
| 19 | That’s a natural reaction –  Think back to times of your earlier encounters with Jesus – as a child, a teenager, as an adult. Were they not exciting? Didn’t you want to tell someone about it?  Did you pick a stranger on the street?  Probably not – they wouldn’t care or think you’ve gone looney!  No, you probably told another Christian, whether family or friend |
| 20 | My Experience – As a senior in High School, Lay witness mission to church in Virginia – great weekend. Shared faith to Sunday School class, fun at youth gathering – such praise and joy and fun! Sharing with family of God in a UM Church.  Then you began to share the experience with others. |
| 21 | The disciples did the same, they told each other of their experiences and then listened to Jesus and began to tell others – “in Jerusalem, all of Judea and to the ends of the earth.” |
| 22 | And this is our call as well – When we see the risen Christ in the breaking of bread, or in the deformed body of a child, or on the face of a dying loved one or the dew-covered blossom of a spring flower. When we see the risen Christ in our children as they romp around the yard; in the last hour of the setting sun, or in the words of a preached sermon or in the voices of an anthem or a solo offered in worship or in the hug of a friend who’s fighting cancer. |
| 23 | When we see the risen Christ touching the lives of others and our lives – we must tell it. We must share it, we must, we must, we must!! |
| 24 | If we don’t share it in word and deed, then 2 things will happen:   1. The Revelation will vanish from us more quickly than Jesus vanished form the two Emmaus disciples. It will be a memory that’s lost its power. 2. If we don’t’ share it, then we’ll be denying our friends, family and others from hearing the Good News.   Just think, the relationship of our children with Christ often starts with parents and grandparents sharing Jesus. |
| 25 | Revelation and sharing are linked – one leads to the other  Stop sharing then the revelations of Christ slow down, dry up and wither away! And we are left to try and live out the Gospel on memories of yester years – How hard this is!  In my salvation experience at a revival – I didn’t share or tell anyone. And no one asked. It was 2 years later before I really began to act on it and share. During the time, my joy left, things reverted back.  But when we share them, then the whole process rolls on and on |
| 26 | What about you? When is the last time you saw the Risen Christ in this broken bread and in this juice?  Where have you seen Him in your day to day experience?  Have you shared it with another? Have you shared it with someone in your family of faith here at the church?  Revelation of the risen Christ is a gift to those prepared, a gift to be shared! It opens the door for more and more encounters with the Risen Lord! |
| 27 | As you break the bread this morning, and drink the cup look deeply – see YOUR risen Lord – nail prints and all.  Then go share it! You’ll be glad you did! Amen |