

## **PREACH SLOW - NOTE PAUSES**

**Easter.3.2023.04.22.Sermon (Lk. 24:26-27)**

**A. Cottrill**

"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." This is our text. Let us pray: "Lord give me the voice to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, and let us hear him speak. Amen"

(If my voice gives out today, please forgive me, I have been sick.)

Once I was guest preaching in central Ontario. After the sermon a woman approached me. | "I didn't bring my hearing aide today." "Give me your sermon in one sentence." | I don't recall how I answered. I think I gave her a paragraph at least. When I told another pastor he said to me: | "if you could've said it all in one sentence, why say more?" |

Jesus had taught the disciples for three years. They heard him preach and teach every day. That's more than 20 years of church-sermons. And even after that, they still had a lot to learn. Jesus had told them he would die and rise again. But they were still baffled. Didn't you know the Christ had to suffer? How did you miss the resurrection. It's all there right in front of you guys. So Jesus teaches them the Old Testament again. | "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." | Jesus gives them the key to the scripture, which is himself.

They hear again of sinful man's disobedience to God's Law. The need to repent and turn to God. | The sending of God's messiah who kept the whole law. | Of how this Messiah, this saviour, had to suffer and die for their sins. | That he would rise again in glory. So they saw Jesus, right in Isaiah, right in Deuteronomy, right in Genesis. He taught, and they learned.

One of the saddest things that can happen in life is when someone gives up on you. | When a spouse says they are too tired to give you another chance to learn. | When a family member or a friend says that they're done. | Even when a boss or a coworker refuses to try and

help you anymore. When the teacher declares you unteachable. | It is a comforting truth that Jesus never gives up on his disciples. He never stops teaching. | He never stops reaching out to help. The gospel lesson for us today shows us the relentless love of God. | Shows us that because God will never stop loving you, he will never stop teaching you. Jesus never gives up on us. | Even if at times we are tired of learning and relearning.

Martin Luther's son rejoiced when he had finished catechism class. Relieved, he told his father "I am finally finished learning". Luther replied "how are you finished learning when God has not finished teaching". | We do a lot of teaching as Lutherans. Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, Youth Group, Bible Study. But we are simply following our Lord's example.

When we learn the 10 Commandments, we learn our sin. We see we cannot rely on our works. And by hearing of the Gospel we see that we can rely on Christ. We see that Jesus has won our forgiveness. | We can be baptized as infants, but we learn of its blessings later. How God washed away our sins, how the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts. God plants the seed of faith in his word. And as we grow we learn even to recognize Jesus in the sacrament. To see in bread and wine Christ's true body and blood given and shed for us. We learn that the pastor's absolution is Jesus' own forgiveness spoken to us. And by teaching us, and teaching us, we see Christ give and give and give. | Jesus gives his very life to us, that we might live forever with him.

And as we learn more of the Bible we see Jesus more. Even in the Old Testament. Luther said when you tear any page of scripture, it bleeds Christ. | That's what Jesus did on the Emmaus road. He was teaching them the scriptures, showing them himself. For Jesus is the way to Heaven. If you know him, you know God.

St. Jerome said "ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ". And when God teaches us the scripture he shows us Jesus. Dearly beloved, there is no greater comfort than knowing Jesus. St. Aelred of Rivaulx wrote a thousand years ago of the joy he found in meeting Christ in the scripture. He said "since the day that some drops of sweetness began to flow my way from the honeycombs of holy Scripture, and when the mellifluous name of Christ claimed my affection for itself, whatever I read or hear, however subtly argued, has neither flavor nor light without the salt of heavenly letters and the seasoning of that most sweet name".

I had to google "mellifluous"- it means musical and pleasant to hear. But after that I saw Aelred's reason to read the Bible. | Not because we have to. Not because we feel guilty. | But because there we meet Jesus, we hear our dearest friend talking to us, encouraging us, helping us not to be afraid. When we meet him in his word, | when we taste the sweetness of his love, | when we hear the melody of his grace, | we will want him to teach us again and again. We will want to know him more. And one sentence will never be enough.

In the mellifluous name of Jesus, Amen.