

## Second Sight Luke 24:13-35

These past few weeks I've noticed things I never noticed before. Neighbors I never see outside their homes. New buds, different types of trees.

I also noticed new things about myself and others, especially at places such as the grocery store. I've started to notice the way people are creating their own style of masks, some colorful, some plain, some with patterns, some with intricate designs. How people who never met are saying "hello" just to connect with another human being. I notice how food tastes especially good when it's scarcer to get hold of.

We value things more when we pay closer attention to them. And right now, in our world, this quarantine has allowed us to take a closer look at everything and everyone differently. For some, it's meant finding more to critique. For many others, it's meant finding more to cherish about our communities and relationships. Paying more attention to the little things, realizing that little things matter.

Often we can get streamlined into seeing only one way, seeing only certain people, seeing only one perspective - as though we're wear a certain kind of prescription glasses that distort the view we have of the the world and each other. We view the world through our own unique "lens," and like any lens, it's selective. It helps us to see things in the way we're used to seeing them.

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, think of how the world looks different when you have them off. You can't see things clearly. Things look fuzzier, or stranger. Put your glasses back on and the world comes into focus.

Every view of our world from our eyes is prescriptive. Our perspective is prescriptive so to speak. When we "change our prescription," it changes our entire view. And sometimes, our viewpoint.

In a sense that's what happens to us psychologically, too, when we go through a trauma or a significant change. It's as though our prescription changed, and suddenly we see the world through a new lens. For some, it may bring new things to light. But for others, that trauma may create dark spots, or blind spots in our vision.

In our scripture for today, two disciples of Jesus are walking along a road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They had seen Jesus 'crucifixion and spent time with others hiding out in Jerusalem. They had commiserated with the other disciples about the loss of Jesus and the destruction of their hope. Downtrodden and discouraged, they were returning home to pick up where they had left off.

Their grief provided them a narrow lens through which they could only see blue and grey. They were sad; they were downhearted; they were convinced that life had lost its color. And their hope for a more beautiful world was dashed. As they stared down at the ground, kicking the dust as they walked, they barely noticed the stranger coming up beside them, hardly gave him a glance.

When he asked them what was wrong, they were surprised he didn't know about the loss of the Messiah. Even as he talked about the scriptures and reminded them of the foreshadowing of Jesus 'death and resurrection, they were so overwhelmed in their grief that all they could see was the road. All they could hear was the drone of his voice.

Only when he reached their home, and sat with them, and broke bread with them, were their eyes opened. As they looked up, they saw his face, his hands, his eyes, his

body sitting before them, holding the bread of life. And that's when they see him again, as if for the very first time. Only then did they recognize who he truly was.

Prayer, scriptures, talking, walking .....all of these helped their minds to cope. But only when their eyes met his did their vision change.

The truth of Jesus 'resurrection only truly gets into our hearts, shifts our perspective, and changes our vision when we enter into relationship, personal relationship, with him. We can know Jesus through reading, and thinking, and praying. We can learn about him and theologize concerning him. But it's only through a personal encounter with Jesus, welcoming him into our heart, that we come to a place where our focus shifts and we see him in face to face.

After the two experienced that encounter with the risen Lord, they realized that their hearts had been burning, as he relayed the scripture to them again. Those scriptures were the new lens that Jesus needed to give them in order to prepare them to look at him with eyes that could see, to hear him with ears that could hear.

Just as we should periodically check our physical eyes, we should periodically check our spiritual eyes. The scriptures are that kind of eye test that helps us adjust our vision and wear new lenses through which we view the world and the people in it.

When we read the scriptures, we fit ourselves with a new kind of lens in which to view Jesus. No matter how many times we read them or hear them, something new will appear that you never noticed before. But only if we stop staring at the ground, raise your eyes, and look to heaven.

I heard of a girl who needed glasses to see the blackboard in school but was too embarrassed to wear her glasses. So she continued to see a fuzzy group of symbols instead of truly seeing the lessons she needed to learn.

Many Christians go through life the same way. We refuse to grow, only to view a fuzzy form of Jesus instead of seeing him and encountering him ways that allows him to change us and move us and grow our discipleship.

This week I challenge you to read the scriptures as you've never read them before. And make reading scriptures a regular part of your day if you don't already. I'm willing to bet that it will change your view about Jesus, yourself, your relationships, and this world.