

April 3, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

RISE AND WALK

By Fr. David C. Robinson, SJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading and an Excerpt from the Gospel

Peter and John were going up to the temple area for the three o'clock hour of prayer. And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple called "the Beautiful Gate" every day to beg for alms from the people who entered the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk." Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God.

ACTS 3:1-8

They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered

together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

LUKE 24:33-35

Reflection

During the early days of the Easter season, we are met with a dizzying number of extraordinary events narrated in Luke's Gospel and in Acts. The terrified and cowering disciples appear to be drowning in sorrow and fear in the upper room, without hope or direction. In a span of days, the post-Resurrection world begins to manifest itself with radiant power. In Chapter 24 of Luke, the women at the tomb are met by two angelic figures who announce that Jesus is risen. When the women return to share the news with the disciples, they are not believed! Peter rushes to the tomb and is stupefied at what he finds. On the same day, the two travelers on the road to Emmaus discover the risen Lord in the 'breaking of the bread,' and return to share the news. The Easter mystery intensifies as Jesus appears to the disciples to confirm the resurrection. He enlightens them with the words of Scripture and clarifies his message for their future. After 40 days, Jesus ascends, and the fledgling Christian community begins its journey.

Acts opens with the Lucan narrative contained in the Gospel. In Chapter 2, the Spirit comes with Pentecost, and Peter, who had been trembling with doubt and fear only weeks earlier, suddenly steps into a public role of preaching the truth of the Risen One, with conviction and articulate passion. He is no longer a novice in the school of the Messiah. He is the voice of the One who had brought a new vision of God to the world. When he meets the Beggar at the Beautiful Gate, he embraces his ministry as a healing presence to the suffering. His voice rings with compassion and tenderness as he says, **"I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk."** He is now the embodiment of Jesus' love, a love which fills an afflicted life with surprise and hope.

In our contemporary situation, the vast majority of us will not receive a mission of miraculous healing to the blind, the crippled, or those suffering with tragic disease. Nonetheless, we are commissioned to live with the transforming love that kindles new life in every place and circumstance. Healing miracles are not always visible. We can be graced with tears of wonder as we enter into the mystery of Jesus' healing love, incarnated in our words, our touch, our embrace of compassion. Ours is the holy mystery of amazement, gratitude, and hope,

enkindled in the heart of one whom others have blindly passed by. Our healing gift is the heritage of our lifelong walk with the Saving Presence that has called us and made us whole.





Jesus Heals

Photo by Fr. David C. Robinson, SJ

For Pondering

- What does it mean to say that you have a “healing ministry” in your community life?
 - How have you experienced the grace of your own “healing presence” in the company of someone who is suffering and neglected?
 - Do you feel called to deepen your healing attention to those around you in your day-to-day life?
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