



(Food for thought: Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48.)

“Follower...Disciple ...Witness”

We tend to think that it was easier to believe “back then,” and we find it difficult to believe that the first disciples could have been so far off track. But if we listen carefully, we can hear in stories, like today’s Gospel passage, that they had the same daily struggles we have. We may be far removed from Jesus’ first followers, but like them, we too struggle with life and death, love and forgiveness. We ask the same questions to life’s disappointments as they did, “Why?”

All of the Gospel stories are about real issues; they speak to what’s on our minds and what troubles our hearts.

They strengthen us when we doubt. These stories are not only for the good days and celebrations of our lives. They are also for when we face darkness, when life feels threatening, when the darkness seems overpowering and we are afraid of losing our bearings. God speaks to us through these stories, they are our light in darkness, our compass for when we feel lost.

We become witnesses to the Gospel message by listening to the Word of God, by living changed lives and by voicing our faith. Today our world needs such witnesses. We live in a shattered world, in a fragile peace, threatened by war and the unsettled conditions. Discord surrounds us and rivalry, hatred and anger flourish in our world. The day seems to belong to the most powerful and violent. In addition, our planet is in

need of witnesses to speak for and defend it from further ravishing. Children, women, the poor and elderly are not respected and often lack voice, immigrants are distrusted and in many places, have suffered personal violence for themselves and their families.

Let us then listen, learn and begin anew so that we may be effective witnesses to the presence of the Risen Lord in our world.



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