



Grain

“Hospitality is simply practicing God's mercy with those around us. Christ is in the stranger, in those who have nowhere to go and no one to welcome them.”

Field

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him... ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” Luke 24:13-16, 28-32

Thoughts, written by Rev. James Lynch, Dunn, WI

There's always that one person who doesn't get any recognition – or at least not the recognition they deserve. For whatever reason. Such a person may have just as big a role in the story, activity, project as anyone else but when it comes to attention, they are somehow left behind.

In the Emmaus story – a continuation of the first Easter story – it's the “other” disciple. There are three characters in the tale of Jesus encountering a pair of travelers leaving Jerusalem after an emotionally grueling few days.

There's Jesus, of course, newly resurrected, and ready to make his last few days on earth count. There's Cleopas, who can't believe this stranger missed all the excitement. Then there's the “other,” the unnamed, disciple. You would think that the author of Luke, who has been called the best storyteller in the New Testament, would have at least given us the name. Nope. Some folks it seems are just born into anonymity and destined to remain there.

What does it take to be recognized, to get some attention, any attention, in the world in which we find ourselves these days? There's a lot of competition to be seen and heard, an almost overwhelming amount. Recognition and attention aren't always positives, sometimes aren't a blessing. But if we have done something of note, something that makes our world a little better place – or if we know of someone or a group of someones who have – a little recognition or attention can't hurt.

Catching someone doing something good can work wonders – for everyone. Letting someone know that they are seen can be just as uplifting, just as exciting for them, just as beneficial for their spirit as suddenly figuring out who their traveling companion was for Cleopas and whatstheirname. Jesus had seen them, both of them, had lifted them up, both of them, had let them know they were important, both of them. That's a road that everyone needs to be on. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Jim