

NEW LIFE: A NEW BEGINNING

The friends of Jesus could not believe what had happened. They were devastated when Jesus died and they were slow to believe that he was truly alive. The gospel stories show this. Jesus is the same and yet different. They are terrified and delighted.

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS (based on Luke 24:13-35)

On the Sunday evening two disciples were on their way to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened and did not recognise the stranger who joined them as they walked along.

“What are you talking about so sadly?” he asked them.

They turned to him, their faces full of their sadness. The disciple named Cleopas answered him. “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who does not know all the things that have been going on these last few days?”

“What things?” Jesus asked.

“What happened to Jesus of Nazareth,” they said, “the great prophet who showed by all he did and said that he was sent by God. Our chief priests and leaders handed him over to the Romans and he was crucified. We had hoped that he was the Promised One who would set Israel free. This morning, some women went to the tomb where he had been buried and came back saying they had seen a vision of angels and that Jesus was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it empty as the women had said, but they didn’t see anything of Jesus.”

Jesus said to them, “How slow you are to believe! Don’t you remember the promises of the prophets about the Christ who would suffer and rise to new life?”

They told their story, and how they recognised him in the breaking of bread.