

The Presence of Hospitality (Luke 24:13-34) Welcome to the Table pt. 7 Pastor Tim Peck

THE BIG IDEA

Biblical hospitality helps us find our story in God's story, recognize Christ's presence with us at the table, and motivates us to proclaim Christ to others.

OPENING

- When was a time when you had the right facts but came to the wrong conclusion?
- Describe a time when you had a deep conversation during a meal.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Brendan Byrne says, "*The Greek text is rather precise about this non-recognition. It says, 'their eyes were being held,' a hint that the non-recognition was somehow due to the action of God.*"¹ Why do you think God would want to keep Jesus' identity concealed from Cleopas and his companion?
- What does Jesus say is the main plot of the Old Testament in Luke 24:26-27? Martin Luther famously said that the Old Testament is the "swaddling cloths and manger" in which Christ is found. Likewise, Augustine is attributed with saying that "In the Old Testament the New Testament is concealed, in the New Testament the Old Testament is revealed." What are the implications of this for how Christians should read the Old Testament?
- Compare Luke 24:30 with Luke 22:19. How are Jesus' actions and gestures similar?

¹Brendan Byrne, *The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke's Gospel* (Liturgical Press).

- Cleopas and his companion recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. Bible scholar Joseph Fitzmyer says, *“The lesson in the story is that henceforth the risen Christ will be present to his assembled disciples, not visibly (after the ascension), but in the breaking of the bread. So they will know him and recognize him, because so he will be truly present among them.”*² What are the implications of this lesson for taking Communion?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- What facts in your life are you having difficulty locating in God’s story? How is this effecting you? Spend time this week asking God to help you locate these facts into his story.
- Spend a few moments in silent prayer before each dinner this week, asking God to help you experience his presence in your conversation with others.

PRAYER REQUESTS

²Joseph Fitzmyer, *The Gospel According to Luke X-XXIV* (Yale University Press).