

Appreciate each other

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By Lenny Cacchio

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—The disciples walked with Jesus throughout Judea, Samaria, and Galilee for 3½ years, yet they seemed to miss the entire purpose of His being. They hoped that Jesus would lead a popular uprising and throw the Romans out. But their dreams were broken when this Man, who would supposedly lead them, stretched out His arms and breathed His last.

It's trite to use a 1960s pop tune to teach theology, but the lyrics "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone?" is a lesson that applied to the disciples.

Shortly after the crucifixion, two disciples were traveling on the road to Emmaus when someone approached them.

"What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" He asked them.

They related to Him how Jesus, whom they had hoped would be the one to redeem Israel, had been betrayed by His own people and was crucified, and then, to add to their consternation, His body was missing and some had even claimed to have seen Him alive!

You'll find this account in Luke 24, and you'll also find that the stranger who approached these two disciples was Jesus Christ Himself. But for some reason they did not recognize Him as such until "He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight."

What they then said to each other is the lesson for us.

"Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

They had failed to appreciate His company until His presence was no longer there. It was then that they realized how their hearts yearned for His teaching. It was then that they missed what they had.

Losing a loved one brings forth such emotions. Give them hugs while we still have them. Savor the moments we share. Let our hearts burn within us while we break bread together, for one day those moments and hugs will live in our memories and not in our presence.

Appreciate each other while we can.