

# CLOSING REFLECTION

Saturday 22 June 2024

  
*Messages of hope*<sup>+</sup>  
in a complex world.



Led by Ann Zubrick, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers Australia)

### **Let us enter a period of silent worship**

My reflection this evening includes another story of prayerful reflection and discernment to the one Anna Phan has offered. It's the story the two disciples on the way to Emmaus which invites, indeed highlights, prayerful reflection. Cleopas and the anonymous disciple are prayerfully discussing powerful, troubling, recent events in Jerusalem (Luke chapter 24: 14-18). On the reflective walk, let's follow the path they trace in discipleship. To begin, they literally walk on the road toward Emmaus. As they walk, the two also talk and thoughtfully exchange their recollections of what has happened in recent days. Two actions, walking and talking reflectively, are repeated through the story.

When Jesus appears suddenly to his two followers and joins them 'on the way' he questions them. **"What are you discussing as you walk along?"** (Luke 24:17) The two appear astonished, dejected by the stranger's ignorance and stop walking. They were walking away but have now been stopped 'on the way' to reflect more deeply. The two disciples fail to recognise who is accompanying them. They were walking away from Jerusalem and have now stopped completely.

### **While the two were walking in the wrong direction, they were on the right path.**

In Luke's story, the disciples fall into a pattern of not recognising who is with them. They failed to recognise Jesus **was** accompanying them and deepening their understanding. The text reads:

**"Jesus himself drew near to them but their eyes were prevented from recognising him."** (Luke 24: 15 -16).

There may be many reasons— indeed, is this not also part of our experience of discipleship?

The scene unfolds when Jesus shares a meal, breaks bread, with them. Luke writes:

**"With that their eyes were opened, and they recognised him, but he vanished from their sight."** (Luke 24:31)

With open eyes they can now reflect on events: walking and talking, their hearts burning as Jesus provided meaning and context for them. What they first missed; they now recognise as divine presence.

The two were walking in the wrong direction, but we're on the right path. The invitation is for us to keep walking, conversing among ourselves to keep moving along the way with others. Cleopas is named in this scene. The other disciple remains anonymous, perhaps allowing a space for all of us to enter this story and acknowledge times when we too have been accompanied 'along the way.'

**Silent reflection.**

**Thank you, Friends.**