

Missing Pieces

"and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Luke 24:46-47 NRSV

Sometimes in our human frailty... when our hearts are broken, when we are in a state of confusion and despair, we see things without seeing them. Perhaps we participate in activities, without realizing the importance of what we are doing or seeing.

Sometimes we can't make sense of what we are looking at. The whole picture is unclear and disjointed like working a jigsaw puzzle without the picture on the box top and with missing pieces.

Have you ever walked up to a crowd of people who were looking UP at something? So, you start looking up too... just to see what everyone else is looking at. The crowd is standing there, craning their necks, and you along with them, but you don't see the importance of what everyone is looking at. It's as if a central piece of your puzzle is missing and you cannot complete the picture in your mind without that one piece.

In those dark days which followed the crucifixion, as they waited in Jerusalem, I wonder how confused the disciples were. Of course, they were heartbroken by the horrific events of Golgotha. Do you suppose they struggled to piece together the reality of an empty tomb, the encounter on the Emmaus road, and the glimmer of recognition as they saw the Lord when he broke the bread?

As they were gathered in Jerusalem, the Lord appeared to them. Jesus recognized their anxiety and calmed their fears, and cleared their doubts. He assured them of his presence with them; he spoke to them. He put the missing pieces of the puzzle in place by explain to his disciples what they must do and why they must do it. "You are my witnesses," he said. Proclaim to the nations that hearts and lives are changed by repentance and forgiveness of sins.

When our lives are confusing like a jigsaw puzzle without the picture on the box top to guide our efforts, or when we feel incomplete like a puzzle with pieces that have fallen and are lost on the floor, Jesus gives us a big picture for our lives and puts our missing pieces back in place. When your life is jumbled and in pieces, allow Jesus to bring peace to the confusion, and give your life direction to make you whole.

Christ's peace, be with you,

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