

Sermon Title: On the Road Again
Text: 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
By: Rev. Terry Carty
Date: 05-08-2011
Place: Kingston Springs United Methodist Church
Season: Third Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

Main Point: Live in a community of genuine mutual love.

Top Ten Worst Mother's Day Presents

10. A mop
9. An IOU for after-church lunch today
8. Tickets to next year's *WrestleMania*
7. A necktie (also a questionable choice for Father's Day)
6. Your report card
5. Something "for the whole family"
4. Pay back the \$20 you borrowed
3. Fresh flowers from the neighbor's garden
2. A pair of sensible shoes
1. Rubber dishwashing gloves

Read Luke 24:13-35

My new word for the week is "recidivism." Recidivism is the tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior. Scripture tells us that those who followed Jesus were recidivist after his death. They relapsed. The story of the two followers, Cleopas and the other, who were making the 7 mile trek back home to Emmaus were downcast. They are remembered forever as saying, "we had thought he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

Of course the wonderful story of the Walk to Emmaus tells us how the resurrected Christ walked with them and told them in detail how Jesus had fulfilled all of the Scriptures concerning the One who was to come. Their hearts caught the fire of the Gospel again and they went running back to Jerusalem with the news that they had seen Jesus resurrected.

oo

Recidivism is most often used to talk about prisoners who offend again and return to prison after they had completed their sentence and were set free. The last study (1994) of this phenomenon by the Department of Justice in the US found an overall recidivism rate of 67.5% for adult offenders within 3 years of release. The Tennessean newspaper reported this year that Tennessee is in the middle of the pack with a 42% recidivism rate among the 27,000 who are incarcerated here. I did the math, of 27,000, over 11,000 have returned to prison after release from earlier convictions.

