**Homily by Deacon Luis P. Villanueva**

**for 8AM Mass on Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

**at St. Joseph Church, Devine, TX.-**

 **Fr. Antonio Hernandez, Pastor-**

Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Psalm 105; Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, amen.

Sometimes we miss the real meaning and message of the Resurrection of Jesus because we too, like the disciples in today's gospel, have other expectations or agendas for our lives. We set aside the Lord's expectations and try to live out our lives by own expectations.

And whenever those expectations or agendas fall through or are not met to our satisfaction, we may end up being disillusioned or frustrated.

Jesus told the disciples on the road to Emmaus when he saw them downcast to their expectations of Jesus "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!” Jesus could say the same thing to us for not understanding the real purpose of his life and ministry on earth.

If we live our lives solely on bread alone, living out our lives based on secular agendas only, striving only for material success, without any spiritual life, living our lives without God's grace or the hope of eternal life, we could end up becoming a very unhappy, miserable and frustrated person.

Jesus told the disciples in today's gospel that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer those things (his Passion and Death on the Cross) and enter into his glory, so that our lives may have meaning and receive eternal life through belief in him and in his salvation work.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear about the expectations from the man that had been crippled from birth and met the apostles Peter and John. He was expecting from them a monetary donation, like he was used to getting from those passing by, to help him with his daily needs since he obviously could not earn a living otherwise.

In the gospel of St. Luke we hear about the expectations from the two disciples of Jesus as they traveled to Emmaus from Jerusalem. They were downcast because their expectations were not met either. They had been hoping that Jesus would be their leader in obtaining for them a political victory over the Romans and their hopes had been crushed when they saw their Messiah hung on the Cross.

Even after being with Jesus for three years and seeing the mighty miracles and after private tutoring the two disciples still did not realize the divinity of Jesus or his real mission or purpose.

It was not until their hearts and minds were really open and prepared to listen, to learn and receive Jesus and his Holy Spirit that they were able to receive understanding of his ministry and his purpose.

The crippled man was expecting a monetary donation but received from Jesus a complete healing of mind, body and spirit through Peter and John who were full of the Holy Spirit.

The two disciples in the gospel were expecting a political victory from the oppression and slavery of the Romans over the Jews, but received understanding of the real victory and Salvation over the oppression of sin and death obtained by Jesus, the long prophesized Messiah.

How often do we fail to recognize the Lord and his plans for us when he speaks to our hearts? The Risen Lord is always ready to speak his word to us and give us understanding of his ways. But sometimes we try to do things our way without understanding his way and we end up getting all frustrated with life like his disciples at first.

Jesus wants to reveal to all the world that he is our Savior, the Resurrection and the Life. That there is no Salvation through anyone else except through him. That we can trust in him and that we can have eternal life through him. He can provide all our needs. God bless you.