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The cross was confusing for the disciples. Although Jesus had shared with them what would happen to him, they had no context for understanding. All they knew at their present moment was that their leader was gone and that all they had given the last three years of their life for now seemed to be destroyed. They were afraid and disillusioned to say the least. The events of the last week just didn't fit into any paradigm of thinking that they had. They had gone from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to seeing his dead body upon a cross. They had experienced the joy of the crowds shouting, "Hosanna". They had experienced utter confusion, pain, and doubt as they watched their leader crucified.

It had been a roller coaster week.

Their emotions were spent.

Their physical bodies were exhausted.

Their minds were confused.

Yet God was right in the midst of it all.

How Jesus must have longed to rescue them from the hours of pain during those days just as a parent longs to rescue their child from pain. Yet at times, we who are parents know that we must not rescue our child from their present difficulty – not just yet. The journey is important. In fact, it is a requirement.

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to them, "And their eyes were opened and they knew Him." Luke 24: 31

"And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures." Luke 24:45

At the right moment, Jesus gave them understanding. It didn't come from their own resources. It came from Christ. It clicked just like when a combination on a lock clicks into place and the lock opens.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit can do that for us. And when it happens, you know it. The treasures of the safe become available to you.

I wish I could tell you that the rest of the story was an easy, pain-free ride for the disciples. It wasn't. But it was one of great adventure as the disciples became literal world-changers. Many more times, they would need their understanding to be opened. And such is the life of faith.

As we participate in this time of fasting, may we embrace the journey of faith for whether we find ourselves in dark, confusing days or in days of joy and celebration, God is right there in the middle of it all with us. As we seek to follow Him, we can rest in the assurance that at the right moment He will open our understanding.

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