

# God is still on the throne

Life is filled with many experiences, and the key to life is learning to be flexible. We, for the most part, have no control over the things that come our way. Job said it best, “Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). In the New Testament we read, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience” (James 1:2, 3). We have no idea what tomorrow will bring, or when our current crisis will end. There is one thing for sure, God is still on the throne and He still answers prayer. Our story today is found in Luke 24, and it deals with two disciples who believe life couldn’t get any worse. They have been faithful followers of Jesus. They had experienced great miracles by the Master, and knew life couldn’t get any better. Then they watched Jesus being crucified and laid in a tomb. They couldn’t believe what they had experienced. Knowing this



JUST A THOUGHT  
Rev. Tom Mansbarger



story had come to an end we find them on the road to Emmaus on the first day of the week. Let’s look at this four part story today:

1. First, we see the disciples walking. They are headed to Emmaus which is about a seven mile walk. The reason they are walking is they believe that they no longer have purpose. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:10 that we are His workmanship and that gives us much purpose. They also had no direction. Jesus had died

and life had changed. Philippians 3:14 tells us to press toward the mark. They also experienced a loss of identity. Knowing Christ had died, they have nothing to hold on to. No purpose, no direction, and no identity leads to a life without hope.

2. Secondly, we see the disciples talking. There is no doubt as they are walking they are reflecting on all that has taken place. For these two life has been great, but they had formed preconceived ideas that just didn’t happen. What do we do when things don’t go the way we want? Do we pack up and go home like these two? Little did they know that their work hadn’t even begun.

3. Thirdly, these disciples experience sadness. They have somehow lost their way due to a lack of faith. Not only did they experience a lack of faith, disappointment also appears. They watched Him die and they never believed this would happen. Now all hope is gone and they seem totally de-



feated. This story could be like many others we have heard, but:

4. Jesus comes alongside of them. He begins walking with them, but they don’t know it is Jesus. As He listens, He is sympathetic to their story. He meets them where they are just as He does you and me. He strikes a chord in their troubled hearts. Where does God find you today in your journey? Jesus also becomes instructive

to them. He gives us many promises and we must never let go of them. He always provides a way of escape. As He talks and walks with them He cheers them up and revives their spirits. They are again experiencing the joy they had lost. How did this happen? “And they said one to another, did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us along the way, and while He opened to us the Scrip-

tures” (Luke 24:32)? During this unusual time we know that Jesus comes alongside of each of us, and His Word will always stand true. Don’t lose sight of Jesus. He will never leave you, nor forsake you.

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The distance was social, the day was warm and the Mississinewa Battlefield Society presented what is believed to be the only Memorial Day 2020 public observance in Marion and Grant County Monday. The organization, which stages the annual Mississinewa 1812 living history weekend, gathered at the commemorative statue that it commissioned along River Road in Marion 15 years ago. Salutes were fired to participants in all American wars, but the dress was clearly War of 1812 era. About 20 people gathered at the statue, titled “A Journey Begun,” and listened to brief remarks from society president Anthony Decker. Other traditional Memorial Day events, including those at the National Cemetery in Marion, were canceled by COVID-19 precautions. **(Photo by Ed Breen)**

## Marion native earns degree from Western Governors University


A local resident has earned a degree from Western Governors University (WGU). The online, nonprofit university has graduated over 178,000 students from across the country since its inception in 1997. Shawn Blackburn, Marion, has earned a Master of Science, Nursing – Leadership and Management (BSN to MSN) degree. Since January 2, 2020, WGU has awarded 6,313 undergraduate and 4,975 graduate degrees. Graduates’ areas of study include business, K-12 education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. The average time to graduation for those earning a bachelor’s degree was two years, three months, while the average time for graduate programs was

one year, six months. The average age of those who graduated is 38 years old. WGU pioneered competency-based education, which measures learning rather than time spent in class. Designed to meet the needs of working adults, courses allow students to study and learn on their own schedules with individualized, one-to-one faculty support. They complete courses as soon as they demonstrate that they have mastered the subject matter, allowing them to move quickly through material they already know so they can allocate time for what they still need to learn. As a result, many WGU students are able to accelerate their studies, saving both time and money.

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