

Greetings for another week of 'Church at home'

April 26, 2020

Emmaus Esther and Emmett

Esther: what are you up to Emmett?

Emmett: HI Esther. I'm reading the Bible. Did you know there's an Esther in the Bible?

Esther: Yes, I know that...but I'm sorry to say that there isn't an Emmett in the Bible.

Emmett: I think there is...

Esther: Really, I don't remember any Emmett in the Bible.

Emmett: That's because the Bible uses a short-form of his name and just calls him Emm (e-m-m). And apparently he had a band.

Esther: A band...I don't think so..

Emmett: Sure, there's a whole section in the Bible called Acts – I've just started reading it – but I figure it's about all the great acts of that time – you, know, like bands, magic shows, stand-up comedy..

Esther: Oh Emmett, that's not what's it's about...

Emmett: And Emmett's band was called Emm and Us...Emm and Us...only for some reasons they shortened the word 'and' to just 'a' and called themselves Emm- a- us. In this story I'm reading some of Jesus' followers were going to see Emm-a-us. They must have had tickets to see the band's act.

Esther: That's not the name of a band, Emmett. What you're reading is the name of a village, it's Emmaus. Emmaus was a village a few miles from the city of Jerusalem..

Emmett: Wow: Emm and his band had a village named after them!

Esther: Emmaus wasn't named after a band. What you're reading now is something else. It's a book called Acts. It's a book in the Bible and the Bible is really a library.

Emmett: The Bible is a library – no wonder it's so heavy

Esther: and one of the books in the Bible is Luke and another is called Acts- the book of Acts- but the whole title is the Acts of the Apostles.

Emmett: The Apostles – were they another band?

Esther: No – the apostles were Jesus's disciples, his followers, his companions, his

friends...the book of Acts is about what Jesus' followers did after Jesus was resurrected.

Emmett: It's about their acts? And of them have a band?

Esther: Well, not a musical band, but a band of friends trying to live as Jesus did, loving others, healing others...

Emmett: So who was Emmaus named after?

Esther: I don't know, and it doesn't matter for the story.

Emmett: I get it...no, I don't, what's this story about?

Esther: In the story two of Jesus' followers were going to the village of Emmaus because they wanted to leave Jerusalem after Jesus had been killed. They were worried and scared. As they walked along they were talking about what happened to Jesus and about the Easter story they heard about Jesus being raised.

Emmett: I remember that story...Hallelujah, Christ is risen...indeed

Esther: Indeed, ...well in the Emmaus story, these two people are joined by another person whom they don't recognize...a stranger...who wants to know what they are talking about.

Emmett: Obviously he hadn't been to the Bible library.

Esther: Actually he had, because this 'stranger' was the resurrected Jesus.

Emmett: Hallelujah, Christ is risen..indeed. I love that line.

Esther: Jesus began telling them stories from the Bible, stories of God creating, God giving new lives to people, God freeing people from slavery, and God loving people and healing people and always being with people...God stuff.

Emmett: God stuff

Esther: Yes, the acts of God – acts of love. And the 'stranger' talked about how God had also been doing all this God stuff through Jesus. And then they reached the village and the two travelers invited the stranger to have supper with them, and while they were eating the stranger took a loaf of bread and broke it and shared it with them ...and all of a sudden they realized that it was Jesus. Do you know what they did then?

Emmett: They invited him to come to the Emm and Us concert with them?

Esther: No, Jesus vanished and the two travellers were so excited about Jesus being alive that they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell all of Jesus' other friends.

Emmett: So, no concert. They never got to see the act?

Esther: They got to do acts – acts of kindness, and love and friendship, just as Jesus wanted them to do.

Emmett: So, there's no Emmett in the Bible?

Esther: No, but there's an Emmett right here and right here you can do acts of kindness and love and friendship – acts of an Apostle. We all can.

Emmett: then maybe they'll name a village after me, after all of us!

Esther: Maybe, but maybe people will just be happy that we remind them that Christ is risen.

Emmett: Indeed!

Esther: AMEN

Emmett: AMEN