**SERMON PLAN Date:**

**Series theme:** Thank God, I’m a Methodist

**Sermon Title: “Experience This”**

**Sermon Purpose: We need to experience Jesus, before we can share him with others.**

**Scriptures: Major ideas:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Luke 24: 13-35  Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus | Schweitzer quote as well. Each person will experience the power and presence of God in Christ. |

**Intro: How many Methodists does it take to screw in a light bulb? We’re not sure, the committee will report to the next General Conference in 2020.**

**The TEXT : We return to Emmaus – notice the two are so wrapped up in their own greif they miss the joy that is in front of them.**

**We can get so wrapped up in ourselves, that we miss Jesus. The experience of his presence is so important for the Christian.**

**1.** He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old by the lakeside, he came to those men who knew him not.”

**God Comes to Us.**

**We won’t recognize him at first.**

**But he will come to us.**

**2. “**He speaks to us the same word: “Follow thou me!” and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time.”

**Jesus calls us – it’s an invitation really.**

**The invitation is to become his Disciples – students – people who want to learn the Masters trade and be like him.**

**The Master has work for his disciples to do, his work in his studio, in his Kingdom.**

**3. “**He commands, and to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship,”

**Is it easy to be a student? A Disciple?**

**Will we make mistakes? Will we fail miserably?**

**Will we learn from our mistakes and get better?**

**Until in time, we almost resemble the master.**

**Will it be easy? No. Worth it? Absolutely.**

**4. “**and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.”

**We will learn to trust Jesus.**

**We will learn to follow Jesus.**

**We will learn to be almost like Jesus.**

**We experience him, each in our own way.**

**Conclusion: For John Wesley, it was just the same. He was a unnotable failure as a preist. But when he came to experience Jesus as a living presence in his life, he too was changed.**

**And the Methodist Movement began.**

**Keep in mind he went “Very Unwillingly”**

**But the experience Changed the World.**

“He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old by the lakeside, he came to those men who knew him not. He speaks to us the same word: “Follow thou me!” and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.”

Albert Schweitzer

The Quest of the Historical Jesus

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate-Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation: And an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

Excerpt from the Journals of John Wesley

For May 24, 1738

**Scripture**