**Meditation: The Person of Christ**

(preferably 10 minutes)

PURPOSE:

* To help the participants relate to Jesus and deepen their relationship with Him as a person.
* To help the participants realize the benefits of a life of grace through God.

CORE IDEAS:

* Jesus is in the fullest sense human; therefore, the way is open for us to relate to Him. He shares our struggles and understands our condition.
* Jesus is also divine and God’s unique presence among us; therefore, he saves us and He is the solution to our problems.

INTRODUCTION:

1. How does an individual become a “real” person for us?
2. For many Jesus is a distant figure with whom we cannot have a personal relationship.
3. This meditation will look at how the crucified Jesus became a person in the lives of his disciples following the Resurrection. Jesus, once dead, but now alive, can be a personality, one with whom we can have more than a mere revered relationship.

THE DISCIPLES DID NOT RECOGNIZE JESUS: Luke 24:13-17

1. For most of Jesus earthly ministry, he was not recognized as the person he truly was.
2. Those closest to Jesus failed to recognize Him as a person. Following his death and resurrection, the disciples failed to recognize Him.
3. On the road to Emmaus, His followers failed to recognize Him. They were absorbed in their own world and preoccupied with their own problems. They failed to notice His presence among them.
4. Do we in our churches fail to recognize Jesus as a person? How well do we know Him? Are we ready to know Him at a deeper level?

JESUS LISTENED: Luke 24:18-24

1. One sign of a “real” person is someone who is willing to listen. Listening demonstrates a willingness to enter someone’s life and share feelings on our terms.
2. Jesus listened intently and patiently to the frustrations, disappointments, hopes, and fears of the disciples on the road.
3. Jesus was the master listener.
4. Examples of Jesus as listener:
   1. Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10
   2. Mary and Martha: John 11:17-44
   3. Children: Luke 18:11-17
5. We know that Jesus listened to his disciples. He is willing to listen to the fears and the frustrations we carry. (see Hebrews 2:18)

JESUS ALSO WAITED: Luke 24:28-29

1. Jesus did not announce who he was and the disciples did not recognize Him as long as they remained absorbed in themselves.
2. Jesus did not become a “real” person to the disciples until they poured out themselves and invited Him into their lives.
3. If Jesus is to become a “real” person to us, we must be willing to share our lives with Him. He waits for us.

JESUS BLESSED THE DISCIPLES: Luke 24:30-35

1. Jesus blessed the disciples by making sense of their encounter with the Risen Christ, and He showed himself in all His majesty and power in the breaking of the bread.
2. Jesus came as the Risen Christ with the power to transform the world and the life of each of the disciples.
3. Once the disciples poured out their hearts and had invited Him into their lives, He became not just a revered personality but their Savior as well.
4. When Jesus first appeared to them, the disciples could not recognize Him because they held Him at a distance in their hearts. Now they could see Him for whom He truly was, who would forever live in their hearts. The way to eternal friendship was opened.

CONCLUSION:

1. As Jesus becomes a “real” person for us, the barriers that separate us from God are torn down.
2. Jesus is alive and so we can approach Him with confidence and share our lives with Him.
3. Jesus waits for us to invite Him into our lives today and everyday.