Breaking Bread 13

Hello everyone,

         So we come to the last of these emails on Breaking Bread. Holy Habits moves on to the next “Habit” which is Fellowship, but we do so while continuing to nurture the habits of Prayer, Gladness and Generosity and Breaking Bread.
          I must confess I wondered how I was going to cover 13 weeks on Breaking Bread, but we’ve managed to do it with the help of that hymn, Break Thou the Bread of Life, which has meant that we could consider various Scripture passages in order to break them open to see what God has to say to us.

           This week we’ll take two gospel passages from the weekly Bible readings, John 20: 19-31, when the Risen Jesus appears to the frightened disciples in the locked room, and then Luke 24: 13-35 when Jesus talks with, visits and breaks bread with the two disciples from Emmaus.
             That passage finishes with their words of testimony, that Jesus “was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.” (Luke 24: 35). He was made known to them and then they made him known to others through their witness.
               In John 20, we encounter Thomas who is absent when Jesus first appears to the other disciples, and so he is unsure about what they say. But then he meets Jesus himself and is moved to utter that ultimate confession of faith, “My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28).
                No doubt, Thomas went on to give testimony to his experience and to make Jesus known to those who “have not seen yet come to believe.” (John 20:29).

                 The apostles broke out of their fear and apprehension, symbolised by the locked room , to become witnesses to all they had seen and heard of the Risen Jesus. And the church grew, people’s lives were changed and God was glorified.

                 So how can we make Jesus known in our time? The Risen Lord Jesus is present with us now just as he was then with the apostles. They spoke out in his Name; they loved people in his Name; they developed and practised Holy Habits in his Name, and God worked through them and miracles happened. God will work through us too when we offer ourselves faithfully to go in his Name. And miracles will happen.

               God bless,
                     Graham

*Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*