In the twenty-fourth chapter of *Luke* we are given the opportunity to listen in on a conversation between Jesus and two others who were traveling to a village called Emmaus. Of course, this was after Jesus had resurrected. *Verse 15* tells us that it was "while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them." But it was not His appearance to them on the road to Emmaus that caught their attention that He was the One who had been crucified only a few hours before. It was something else.

While walking "...He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?'" But it was not His voice falling on their ears that caught their attention that this One who was walking with them was the One about whom they had been talking since beginning their walk on the road to Emmaus. It was something else.

These two, not aware of who it was who was walking with them, rehearsed the events of the past three days: how Jesus had been condemned to death by the chief priests and their rulers and subsequently crucified; how certain women of their company had been to the tomb of Jesus and reported back that the angels who attended the tomb made it known that He was not dead, but alive; and, how they and others of their company went to the tomb and had found it just as the women had reported. It was at this point that Jesus finally spoke up "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." But it was not His opening and explaining the Scriptures of "Moses and all the Prophets" that caught their attention to the truth that He was the Christ of these Scriptures. It was something else.

It was drawing late, "toward evening." They came near to the village of Emmaus. Jesus would have continued farther but they "constrained" Him to stay with them. But His acceptance of their invitation "to stay with them" was not that which made them recognize Him. It was something else.

And what it was, was this... "Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him..." It was His breaking of bread that caught their attention and by which He was recognized. There was something about the way in which He broke bread that caused "their eyes [to be] opened" and "they knew Him."

Jesus had broken bread before. At the feeding of the 5,000 in *Matthew 14* "...He took the five loaves and the two
fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.” At the feeding of the 4,000 in Matthew 15 “…He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.” At the last meal before His crucifixion, in the upper room with His disciples, in Matthew 26 “…Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’”

“Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him…” There was something about the way in which He broke bread that identified Him. It must have been overwhelming and shocking to these two men because Luke says “…they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven…and they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.” There was something about the way in which He broke bread.

Can this be said of us – that we are recognized as disciples of Christ by the way in which we break bread? Can we be identified as imitators of Christ by the way in which we break bread? Do we break bread as He broke bread? Do we break bread as He broke bread with the 5,000 and the 4,000 by giving true thanks? Do we break bread as He broke bread with His disciples in the upper room by recognizing it as His body? If the composition of the loaf and the cup is important – and it certainly is – what about the “way” in which we celebrate the Lord’s Supper? If an unbeliever were to observe our observance of the Supper what would he or she say about us? Are we haphazard? Are we nonchalant? Are we in such a hurry to get it over with that it is in truth only a routine ritual without any spiritual significance? Do the men know what they are doing as they serve us? Do we know what we are doing once we have the supper in our hands? Is what we deliver in these “Table Talks” helpful to our brethren in focusing their thoughts upon Christ and His Word, or do we simply deliver a last minute, ill-prepared thought because we think so little of the table all week that we forget that it is our turn to speak on a particular Lord’s Day?

Maybe it was something He did as He broke bread that caused these two men to finally recognize Him. Maybe it was something He said. Whatever it was, may God find us doing and saying the same thing as He this morning. Then perhaps the lost world will recognize us as His.