

A REFLECTION ON THE RESURRECTION

In the Resurrection accounts of Mary Magdalene at the Empty Tomb, the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, and Jesus at the Sea of Galilee, Jesus' disciples and friends seem to need time to recognize Him. These stories suggest that finding the Resurrected Christ in our midst today may require a deeper desire, attentiveness, and some patience from us.

1. Imagine yourself with Mary Magdalene at the Empty Tomb. How do you feel about the tomb being empty? And when you first see "the gardener," do you recognize Jesus before or after Mary does? Now, how do you feel? What does He say to you?(Pause to reflect)

Have you had some difficulty recognizing Jesus in those around you of late? If you had recognized Jesus in them, would your approach to them been any different? How deep is your desire now to find Jesus in everyone you meet? (Pause for Reflection)

2. Now, imagine yourself with the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus after your Lord has died on the cross. Jesus comes from another direction and begins to walk with you, but none of you recognize Him at first. He begins to explain all of the scriptures and you listen as you walk several miles with Him. The others invite Him and you to join them in an inn near the road for something to eat and drink. How long does it take you to really listen to His every word? How often do you listen to His every word when it is spoken at Mass? What would help you to listen more attentively to Jesus speaking to you at Mass and in each new day? (Pause to Reflect)

The two disciples finally recognized Jesus when He took and broke the bread and gave it to them. When you come to the Breaking of the Bread and Holy Communion in each Eucharist, is your heart and mind in the right place during your Holy Communion with Jesus? Do you commune with your Lord and Savior in your mind and heart? (Pause to Reflect)

3. Now, imagine yourself on the Sea of Galilee fishing with Peter and the others. They have all tried to get back to the way things were after all that has happened to Jesus and to their lives. You and they are still trying to understand it all. You are all reminiscing about Jesus teaching the crowds from the boat, calming the storm, and even walking across the water. It has been a bad night for fishing, and Jesus is not with you now. What are your thoughts? (Pause to reflect)

Then, someone calls from the shore: “children, you have no fish, have you? Cast the net to the right side of the boat; then you will catch some.” You seem to recognize the voice, but are not able to place it. Within minutes, the nets are full! You look toward the man on the beach. He looks back at you. What look is on His face? Is He smiling? (Pause to Reflect)

It doesn't take long to reach shore and approach the man you now know is Jesus by a fire. What does it feel like to approach Him and sit by the fire on the beach in the early morning air? You hand Jesus several fish. He reaches to take them. You notice the nail marks on His wrists. Then you dare to look up at His face. What does His face look like? What emotions do you read in His eyes? (Pause to Reflect) What is the first thing you say? What does Jesus say in response? “Remain in Me; and I will remain in YOU.”