



What Will It Take?

What will it take for the early followers of Jesus to recognize him in their midst?

Today's Gospel recounts yet another episode of confusion and unbelief. They had an extraordinary experience that startled and terrified them. Even though other disciples reported having come upon the risen Lord, they didn't realize that it was also he they were encountering. Such an unusual experience might have left them doubtful about the Lord's presence, but the reports of others should have thrown light on the reality of their own experiences. Are they like Thomas, who was unwilling to take the word of others but demanded his own tangible experience of the risen Lord?

However, every account of the risen Lord's appearance reports that his identity is initially hidden. They only knew that it was him when he revealed himself. Mary recognized him when he called her

name (John 20:16); the couple in Emmaus knew him in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:31); even Paul on the road to Damascus only understood who the Lord was when he revealed his name (Acts 9:5).

And what about us? What will it take for us to recognize the risen Lord in our midst? Do we also need concrete evidence? Will it only happen if we have a meal with him? But isn't that exactly what the Eucharist is—a meal with the risen Lord?

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For Reflection

- * *Our faith tells us that the risen Lord is in our midst. Pray that you might recognize him in your family members or in your workplace.*
- * *What can you do for the needy in your society with whom Christ identifies?*



[Jesus] asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

LUKE 24:41-43

