

The followers of Jesus were in disarray

They had no idea what was going on

They had heard reports that he was alive

**But how could that be? There was absolutely no reference point
for these events**

**Nothing like the resurrection had happened in the entire history
of the world**

Nothing like it has happened since, nor ever will again

Although we have a reference point with Sacred Scripture

If a similar event took place today

Would we react much differently?

Or would fear and confusion drive us as well?

Even Jesus' own words don't have the impact we might think:

***Peace be with you* doesn't bring a reaction we expect**

They were startled and terrified

Thinking they were seeing a ghost

Jesus had taught them while he was alive

But they failed to understand

His words to them had been only that, words alone

How often does this happen to us?

Someone tells us something

We read about something, but fail to grasp the meaning

We might fake it

We don't want to look bad

The disciples were no different

When they failed to comprehend what Jesus was teaching

They just went along

When he told them he must suffer and die

They thought it was no big deal

When he told them he would rise again on the third day

They would say OK

And go on as if this were an everyday event

But when it happened

They were terrified

When they witnessed Jesus' death

They went into hiding

The reports that he was alive did not impact them

In our Gospel today

The 2 disciples that had gone to Emmaus were back in the upper room

Telling what had happened to them

How they came to recognize him in the breaking of the bread

And then he is standing in their presence

Though the doors were locked

He is there; *Peace be with you*

And they are terrified

They still do not understand

So Jesus shows he is not a ghost

He shows them where the nails pierced his hands and feet

Where the spear went through his side

Wounds that do not heal in his glorified body

But remain as proof of his love

In fact, I have read of a saint who had visions of Christ

And sometimes Satan would try to imitate Christ

But there was one thing he could never duplicate

And that is Christ's wounds

These are marks of love for us

But even after seeing his wounds

They still don't understand

So he asks for some food

Ghosts do not have flesh and bones

Ghosts do not eat food

Peace be with you

Eventually they do grasp what all this means

Do we understand?

**The mystery of the resurrection is as real today as it was 2000
years ago**

Do we really know what is happening at the Mass?

When the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood

The Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ

Are these just words

Like when Christ taught his disciples?

Do we just nod our heads in agreement when we hear these words?

Or do we realize that what we experience at the Mass

In a certain way, going outside of time

Entering into God's presence in a real way

Where we are present at the Last Supper

We are present at the Passion and death of Christ

Where we are present at the resurrection

The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist for us is just as bizarre

Just as confusing and mysterious

Just as impossible and otherworldly

As when he comes through lock doors

Stands in the midst of the disciples

And says Peace be with you

The miracle the disciples experience in our reading today

In a very real way should be our experience at every Mass

And when we are convicted of our lack of understanding

When we are convicted of our sin we ask

What can we do?

Our response is found in our first reading

The day after Pentecost

When the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles

They are in the Temple area

Witnessing to the resurrection

And preaching repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ

Peter gives an outline of Salvation History

From Abraham onward

It was all part of God's plan

To glorify Christ

But there was another point to be made

Repentance, conversion and forgiveness

The crowd had been at the passion of Christ

They had asked for the release of a murderer

They put the author of life to death

Could there be any greater offense against God than this?

But God is not finished

He raised Jesus from the dead

Now repentance, conversion and forgiveness can be preached

That our sins might be wiped away

This message was for those that were at the crucifixion

This message is for us here today

When we realize that our sins today are the scourging of the passion

Our sins are the nails of the crucifixion

When we are convicted of this

We listen to what St John tells us in our second reading

Do not sin

But if you do, we have an advocate before God

Those who say I know him

But do not keep his commandments are liars

We are called to repentance, conversion and forgiveness

For others and for ourselves

We need all three

Repentance alone is no good

Judas repented that he had betrayed Christ

But it was a dead end road he travelled

Conversion alone is no good

Convert to what? Follow who?

Forgiveness alone is no good

It leads to presumption

That I do not need to change, because God will forgive me

In another accounting of this event in Acts the people ask:

What can we do?

Peter basically tells them to do what he did after denying Christ

Repent

Be converted

And be forgiven

We believe in the work Jesus did

And now we do the work we are called to do

We know him

And we keep his commandments

Even when we are frightened

When we are confused

When we may not understand completely

Listen to his words to his disciples

Let them sink deep

Let them lead us when the path is mysterious or frightening

Peace be with you