



Ask, Father James:

WHAT ARE YOU DISCUSSING? (Luke 24:17)

Two bewildered disciples were heading back home in disappointment from Jerusalem after the execution of their leader. Their hopes had been dashed and were probably returning home to pick up their former businesses from where they left it and to revive their lives. They were discussing about all that had happened to Jesus – their dashed hopes and unrealized dreams, and the wounds, the cross, the missing body and the women’s account about the risen body. As the discussion drag on, a stranger draw near and walks with them. He asks them “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” (v 17).

That question: “What are you discussing together as you walk along” is still Jesus’ question to us today. What do we discuss with each other after Mass and after leaving church? The text of the “road to Emmaus” is a bible study with the risen Lord. The text says: He opened their eyes and minds to understand all the scriptures... And beginning from Moses and all the Prophets, he expounded about the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27).

In Christian theology, Jesus Christ is God’s Word. Not only does he speak God’s words to us, but Christ is also the Word Incarnate (Jn. 1:1). These two disciples only came to this realization when the “stranger” takes, blesses, breaks, and distributes the bread—a eucharistic moment. Every Christian thus must come to their own personal experience of the Paschal Mystery when they can recognize the presence of Christ in the Eucharist in faith, which is why we are always invited during Mass to proclaim the mystery of faith. This experience is what separates the Christian from “the world.” Again, Jesus asks you and me: What are you discussing?

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