

FIVE INSIGHTS FOR CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES AS WITNESSES
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – 18 APRIL 2021



Christ Appears on the Shore | James Tissot | public domain

WITNESSES OF JESUS IN THE WORLD

We ask ourselves today about our calling to being *witnesses of Jesus* in the world.
We reflect on what is involved.

Let us turn to Luke's Gospel, chapter 24, for guidance.

1. *Witnesses are formed by the Scriptures*

After the risen Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus,
they said to each other.

*'Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?'*

After recognising the grace of their experience,
the two disciples become witnesses.
The heart burning within us for Jesus – is a grace.

2. *Witnesses share their experience of Jesus*

The Gospel continues:

*'That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem;
and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.
They were saying,
'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!''*

The scene was now set.

We know the Emmaus disciples have witnessed to Jesus risen from the dead.
We know that Simon has witnessed to Jesus risen from the dead.
In the early church, Christian disciples shared their witness to Jesus.

3. *Witnesses share how Jesus is present in the Eucharist ('the breaking of bread')*

Today's Gospel **Luke 24:35-48** begins with the Emmaus disciples

*"Then they told what had happened on the road,
and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread."*

There are several names for Eucharist in the early church.
'The breaking of bread' is one of the Eucharistic names.

4. *Witnesses are graced by Jesus among them*

The Passage continues:

*"While they were talking about this,
Jesus himself stood among them
and said to them,
'Peace be with you.'
They were startled and terrified,
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.*

*He said to them,
'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.
Touch me and see;
for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.'
And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.*

*While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering,
he said to them,
'Have you anything here to eat?'
They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
and he took it and ate in their presence."*

We open our eyes and hearts to Jesus among us.
Sometimes God will grace us with a tangible sign.
In this passage, it was Jesus eating a piece of broiled fish.

5. *Witnesses are called to a life-long openness to the reading the Scriptures*

Part of the 'Good News' is sharing the joy of Jesus risen.
Another critical part of the 'Good News' is understanding the Scriptures.

Today's Gospel passage continues:

*"Then he said to them,
'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you —*

***that everything written about me in the law of Moses,
the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.'***

*Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
and he said to them,*

***'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer
and to rise from the dead on the third day,
and that repentance and forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things.'***

We are witnesses to the Good News of Jesus.

Let us take time this week to reflect on five insights from above.

1. *Witnesses are formed by the Scriptures*
2. *Witnesses share their experience of Jesus*
3. *Witnesses share how Jesus is present in the Eucharist ('the breaking of bread')*
4. *Witnesses are graced by Jesus among them*
5. *Witnesses are called to a life-long openness to the reading the Scriptures*

How am I formed by the Scriptures?

Where do I share my experience of Jesus?

How do I describe my experience of Jesus in the Eucharist?

How am I open to the grace of Jesus in our faith community?

How much time do I devote weekly to the reading of the Bible?

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041821.cfm>



**“...Then he opened their
minds to understand the
Scriptures...”**

Gospel of Luke 24:45