

Tuesday of Easter Week ~ 4/10

"Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'" (Acts 2:36-37)

This has to be an Easter reading! This incident must have taken place after the Spirit of the Risen Savior began to make His presence felt. "Why," you might ask? Look at the miracle that has taken place in this reading. Here is a group of people who are scolded by the apostles because they had helped crucify Jesus. Now look at their response! They claimed their part in this terrible tragedy and then asked advice about what they should do now. How many times can we remember this kind of response coming from the people involved in the death of Jesus? In our own lives how many times have we ever experienced people owning up to a blunder, much less asking advice about how they could rectify the situation? Yes, the Spirit of God must have been very much alive in the early church.

A little closer look at these people to whom Peter and the other apostles were speaking reveals that they were good people. They were good but they had also been wrong about Jesus. They had not understood before the crucifixion that the man Jesus, whom they had condemned, was really their awaited Messiah. Imagine what a shock it was for them to come to the realization that they had a hand in the killing of the one for whom they longed. What they were unable to see before was now very clear to them. They felt bone-deep sorrow for their actions and attitudes and may have feared that they were doomed because of their actions. In desperation they cried, "What should we do?"

Like these people we sometimes must be cut to the heart in order to see the truth of our misguided behavior. For Christians one of the many graces is the ability to claim our mistakes, to understand that we have missed opportunities to know Jesus. In the midst of the Easter season, we may find that like an errant arrow we are still off the mark at times. We may have wanted to recognize the Risen Jesus only to find that perhaps we still need to learn to embrace the crucified Jesus within. Take heart! Remember the early Christians who found that when they claimed their mistakes they also found salvation.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Do I find that I am unwilling at times to admit my mistakes? What do I fear?*
- 2. Is it difficult for me to seek advice from those around me? Why?*

*Prayer: Lord, keep me honest and help me learn humility so that I might be taught by
Your disciples that walk with me in life.*