

## Help Me Understand...

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**Saturday, December 13, 2014**  
**St Lucy, virgin/martyr**



**...like a fire, there appeared the prophet Elijah whose words were as a flaming furnace. (Sirach 48:1) As they were coming down from the mountain, the disciples asked Jesus, “Why...” Jesus said in reply... Then the disciples understood... (Matthew 17:9-11)**

I was listening to a preacher on the car radio one day on my way home from a meeting, and he posed this question to the listening audience: *“Do you know Christ or have you just heard of Him?”* That question has not left me and it seems to stir up the dust in my soul every so often. How well do I know Christ in my life?

I think of that question now as I gaze upon the disciples and Jesus coming down from the mountain after experiencing the powerful sight of Jesus being transfigured before their eyes. The disciples didn't understand the experience they just encountered. They just didn't get it! But, instead of assuming or guessing or keeping their questions and wonderment locked in silence, they engaged in conversation with Christ to better understand the meaning and message. I am intrigued by the conversations the disciples dared to engage in with Jesus and their openness to say: “I don't understand, can you tell me more or explain it differently that I might grow in knowledge and learn.”

Conversations are so very important in order to grow in understanding of another. It helps to avoid the vice of judgment, assuming another's motivations, placing opinion upon another without knowing the full truth. For the disciples, they desired more than just hearing of Christ, they gave great effort in growing to know Christ and accept his companionship. They allowed Christ into their lives and into their very hearts.

*Do I really know Christ or just know of him? Have I taken advantage of his invitation to get to know him in a wider and deeper sense, to share in his love, life and laughter? Today, seek out someone you can engage in a good conversation with.*

*Jesus, help me to grow to know you, as friend, and may your words be as a flaming furnace to warm my heart that I may grow to understand and learn your message.*

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