

The two thieves that were crucified on each side of Christ were both criminals, worthy of death, but they had radically different viewpoints about Good and Evil. One thought only of the misery of his own life, and in his bitterness even chose to insult Jesus. But the other was able to see through the fog of his own humiliation and imminent death to the fact that Christ was, in contrast to himself, not guilty. This is so amazing, because as far as we know, he had not known Jesus. Like one of those visual puzzles we stare at sometimes, the image of Christ snapped into place and the thief was able to focus clearly on the Goodness of Christ.

I believe that Peter had a similar experience as he walked with Jesus, and when Jesus asked him who the Christ really was, Peter realized with awe, "You are the Christ, the Son of God." And then Jesus emphasized that those who were able to truly see Him made up His church.

We are now, like the thieves, present with Christ. We, like them, haven't spent time with Jesus. Some of us can't quite get the picture right. But as we take this communion, He asks us to look hard and see the true beauty of Christ and His love for us through the fog that clouds our own lives.