

John 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

Analysis

Come and dine (δεῦτε ἀριστήσατε/deute aristēsate)—Jesus' invitation to breakfast is tender and hospitable. The resurrected Lord serves His disciples, reversing typical master-servant relationships. This meal echoes the Last Supper but transforms sorrow into joy, betrayal into restoration. **And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord** (οὐδεὶς ἐτόλμα τῶν μαθητῶν ἐξετάσαι αὐτόν/oudeis etolma tōn mathētōn exetasai auton)—the verb ἐτόλμα (etolma) suggests they wanted to ask but couldn't bring themselves to do so.

This strange tension reveals the paradox of Christ's resurrection body: simultaneously recognizable and mysterious, familiar yet transformed. The disciples knew it was Jesus—His voice, His manner, His provision—yet His glorified body possessed qualities that made direct questioning feel inappropriate or unnecessary. Their silent certainty contrasts with Thomas's earlier doubt (John 20:25). Some knowledge transcends verbal confirmation; spiritual perception surpasses empirical investigation. They knew (εἰδότες/eidores)—not by asking but by experiencing His presence.

Historical Context

This meal fulfilled Jesus' promise at the Last Supper to eat and drink with disciples in the kingdom (Luke 22:30). Post-resurrection meals authenticated Jesus' bodily

resurrection (Luke 24:41-43, Acts 10:41). The disciples' reluctance to question shows reverent awe before the risen Lord—a mix of familiarity (He's preparing breakfast) and wonder (He's conquered death). This breakfast by Galilee previews the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the disciples' knowing without asking teach about the nature of spiritual certainty versus intellectual proof?
2. How does Jesus serving breakfast to those who denied and abandoned Him demonstrate the character of resurrection grace?
3. When have you experienced Christ's presence so clearly that questions became unnecessary, and how did that shape your faith?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτόν	ό	Ἰησοῦς	Δεῦτε	ἀριστήσατε	οὐδεὶς	δὲ
saith	him		Jesus	Come	and dine	none	And
G3004	G846		G2424	G1205	G709	G3762	G1161
ἐτόλμα	τῶν	μαθητῶν	ἐξετάσαι	αὐτόν	Σὺ	τίς	εἰ
durst	G3588	of the disciples	ask	him	thou	Who	art
G5111		G3101	G1833	G846	G4771	G5101	G1488
εἰδότες	ὅτι	ό	κύριός	ἐστιν			
knowing	that		the Lord	it was			
G1492	G3754		G2962	G2076			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:41 (Parallel theme): Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

John 16:19 (References Jesus): Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

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