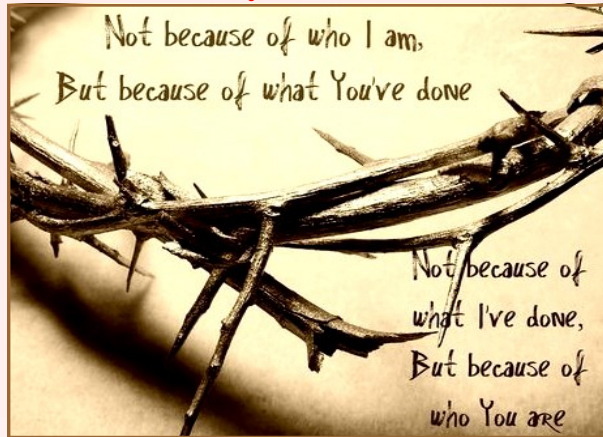


"He is Risen"

The Journey Ends Or Does It?"



"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matthew 28:6

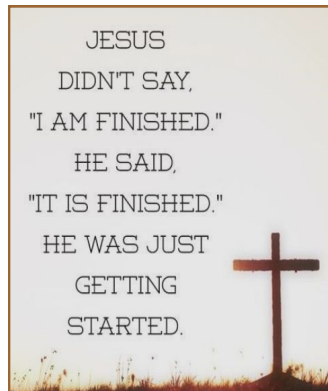
"8. The Ministry of Jesus Christ"

"He's back; Now What" This comment could well have been made by one of the scribes when Jesus appeared after his death on the cross. The people at the crucifixion had seen Jesus bleeding on the cross. They had seen blood flow from his side. According to Scripture Pilate wanted verification that Jesus had died before he allowed the body to be buried, so he had a Roman guard put a spear into Jesus' side. Pilate was satisfied because the mixture of blood and water proved that he was dead. He died, but He arose.

Pilate had guards stationed over 24-hour shifts to make sure no one got into the grave to steal his body. They had done everything in their power to make sure He was gone for good.

The authorities feared him and needed to have power back that they felt they were losing to Jesus. They were sure he was gone for good, but then He came back, and what could they do.

As we study the Easter story, we don't hear anything about the earthly authorities during the forty days Christ spent on the earth before his Ascension. Where were they? What were they planning now? Judas had given their money back. Jesus had too many who were following Him and they had exhausted their power. Were they hiding?

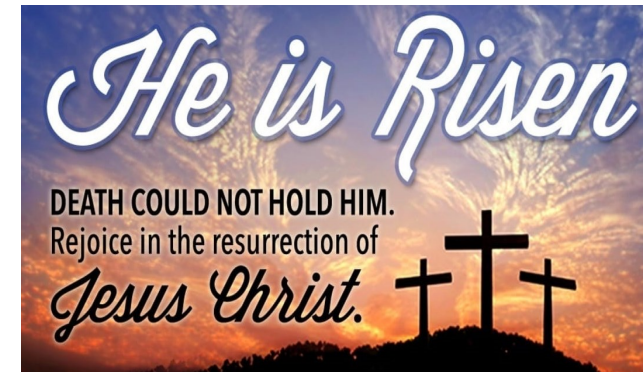


Many were in disbelief. Mary Magdalene recognized him when he spoke to her. (John 20:16) and ran to tell the other women who also believed, but many doubted, not just Thomas. The disciples were afraid of the Jews and were hiding in an upper room. John 20:19-23

Researchers want to know what He looked like. How did Mary Magdalene recognize him when the two men on the road to Emmaus did not? Were they blinded to his real appearance. Can we sometimes be blind to what he does for us and His presence in our lives?

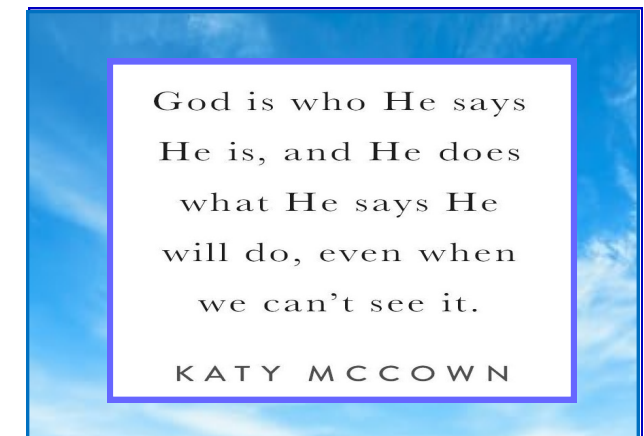
When the women went to the tomb the first day of the week with spices for his body, we are told the stone was rolled away and they went into the tomb but

did not find Jesus. Suddenly two men appeared and asked them *"Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."* Luke 24



They believed and ran to tell the disciples and others. According to Luke, they thought the women were speaking nonsense and would not believe. But, Peter ran to the tomb. Jesus spoke to him and he believed. Luke 24:34

Jesus walked with two men along the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize



Him. He asked *“What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?”* The one man named Cleopas replied. *“Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?”* He said to them *“Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?”* Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. Luke 24. They talked with him and yet they were blinded until He broke bread while he was eating with them. We don't know why they didn't recognize him while they were all walking together. We don't know for sure who the two men were. There is much speculation.

When he appeared to the disciples and others, Thomas was not there and Thomas doubted. He said *“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”* John 20:25

A week later, Jesus walked through the walls into the room where the disciples were gathered and said to Thomas *“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”* Thomas said to him, *“My Lord and my God!”*

His blessings to Thomas is for us also. He said to Thomas *“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* John 20:29

Before Christ ascended into Heaven he appeared to a group of five hundred and we know from studying that he traveled to

various towns so all could believe. But, where were the people who had cried *“Crucify Him”* Where had they gone. How were they going to really get rid of him. We also know from history that many who had been rulers believed but feared for their lives. As they say at war time *“There are no non-believers in a foxhole.”*

Before my husband passed away he softly repeated the song below we both loved from family camp. He told me that he had seen Jesus, his Lord and Great Physician. He kept referring to his Great Physician, and I think some of the doctors thought he was referring to them, but his faith was much deeper than that. I pray that you see Jesus every day as he did. May your faith be strong without seeing everything. God is in control and loves you very much.

I know how to be brought low,
and I know how to abound. In any
and every circumstance, I have
learned the secret of facing
plenty and hunger, abundance
and need. I can do all things
through him who strengthens me.
Phil 4:12-13

Have You Seen Jesus my Lord?

*“Have you seen Jesus my Lord?
He's here in plain view.
Take a look, open your eyes
He'll show it to you.*

*Have you ever stood at the ocean with the
white foam at your feet
Felt the endless thundering motion
Then I say, you've seen Jesus my Lord.*

*Have you ever stood at the sunset with
the sky mellowing red
Seen the cloud suspended like feather”
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.*

Romans 8:37 *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*

Prayer: Lord, some times I doubt even though I know You are there. Please help me to always know you are there in every hour and every situation. Amen

1. How does your journey go?
2. Have you stopped to think about the time after Christ arose from the grave? How would you have reacted?
3. Have you seen Jesus? He's here.
4. Do you see God in the beauty of nature, in the eyes of a young child, in the love from a friend, in the kindness of a stranger?
5. If we believe that the blessing Christ told Thomas, *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* can we accept that it is for us also?

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*Have you ever stood at the cross
With a man hanging in pain?
Seen the look of love in his eyes?
Then I say you've seen, Jesus, my Lord.*

*Have you ever stood in the family
With the Lord there in your midst?
Seen the face of Christ on your brother?
Then I say you've seen, Jesus, my Lord*

*Have you seen Jesus my Lord?
He's here in plain view.
Take a look, open your eyes
He'll show it to you.”*

By John Fischer