

UTAH SUPPLEMENT

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A Belief InThe Risen Lord

St. Paul summed up the Christian faith like this:

- i) that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- ii) that he was buried,
- iii) that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
- iv) that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve

In John chapter 20 the Risen Jesus appeared to:

- i) Mary Magdalene
- ii) all the disciples except Thomas
- iii) later to Thomas

Each of these instances suggest barriers to faith.

1. Grief. Mary Magdalene could not see Jesus for her grief. It was when she heard him call her name that she realized he was risen. There are going to be times when we suffer from grief. We may grieve for the loss of loved ones. It is at times like this that we need to listen for Jesus calling us.
2. Fear. The disciples were gathered behind closed doors in fear. Jesus had been crucified and were they next? Jesus comes to them and speaks words of peace. He showed them his hands and they were overjoyed. Fear can cripple us at times and at those times we need to seek Jesus presence in our lives. It is His Presence that will bring us peace.

When we get stressed out with worry and fear we can find comfort in the words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light."

3. Doubt. Thomas was not with the other disciples when they saw Jesus. He did not have the benefit of what they had seen. He could not believe that Jesus was risen because that was something outside his experience. Thomas said "I am not going to believe until I can put my hand into his side". Jesus later gave him that confirmation and Thomas said "My Lord and my God". There are times when we need a special touch from God through our faith.

Conclusion:

Jesus deals with each person's needs differently. He treats us as individuals

Mary simply needed to hear Jesus' voice and her grief was healed. The disciples needed to receive the peace of Jesus into their lives to release them from their fear.

We are taught blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe. However, Thomas needed to see the Risen Christ

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For us we have the Gospels, our places of Worship, the Holy Spirit and our own individual faith to help us believe.

Each of us has different needs – we all ask different questions - but there is only one solution – a belief and faith in the risen Lord.

Edited by Jay N Mitchell, Deputy Grand Commander