

“He Died And Lived To Tell About It” John 20:24-31

So, the disciples ask their probing question of the Lord Jesus and He tells them gently, that they’re out of line in asking such things but He does say in effect; ‘I will tell you this, fellas, the Father and I have a new job for you all and We’re going to provide surpassingly more than ample power for you to thrive at it!’

And Jesus would not satisfy their curiosity in the same way that He wouldn’t satisfy ours as far as exact eschatological dates are concerned.

Certain events and their timing are kept as the Father’s secrets and Jesus knew that all the disciples needed to know was that they’d soon receive unlimited Holy Spirit power!

The Lord Jesus Christ ascended to pursue His life of intercessory ministry and prayer for those He loved, His followers and in His loving instructive Father-like fashion, God sent His angels to assure all in attendance of His Son’s return in the same way as they saw Him leave!

The Life and Incarnation ministry of Jesus ends with a miracle equal to its beginning; He was born of a Virgin without Adam’s original sin or his sin nature which is genetically reproduced and passed on to all born of earthly fathers and He then lived a life free from personal sin.

What Jesus’ disciples wanted was NOT their Lord’s return in a glorified resurrected body but His Second Advent with the defeat of Israel’s enemies and a glorious entrance into His Kingdom.

And When Jesus was buried, there was not a single person alive that believed He’d ever rise again!

The Sanhedrin were convinced that His death had rid them of their incredibly irritating thorn in the flesh that plagued them every moment of every day.

Remember, Jesus had told them of His suffering to come and His death that would soon follow and very importantly of His certain resurrection but they either never understood Him or forgot what He said and so to them He was dead for keeps and that thought was certainly no source of comfort at a time like this.

But can’t you see it? Their doubts are recorded for us so that we might not have any!

So, just as Jesus Christ rose from the dead in a resurrected body, so did this brand-new movement which came to be known as Christianity come alive!

At the end of those 40 days, when His purpose on earth was fully accomplished and His apostles were ready with their new-found overflowing joy to preach His good news Gospel to all nations, Jesus Christ’s glorified humanity was received up into Heaven where it rightfully belonged.

My friends, a dead Messiah might have been a fine man, a great Teacher and even a miracle-worker but only a Living, Risen Messiah could be the Savior of all men!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of His Church, the power and stability of every believer and the only hope for all of humanity!

In John 11:16, Thomas has the courage to die with Jesus but not the biblical truth in his soul with which to do so in the will of God and if we stay with the experiential plan of God long enough; when it’s time, we will die for the right reasons which means for something eternally meaningful and not simply of something eternally meaningless.

We often receive a blessing when we least expect it such as at a Bible class.

But if we attend an assembly where biblical truth is taught and we don’t pay careful attention; when we face the least little trial in our lives, we will soon depart from Bible classes altogether and go it alone so to speak and inevitably fall apart.

Negative Thomas is trying hard to make the happy disciples unhappy by feeling inadequate for not being thorough in their assessment.

This is still the dispensation or Age of Israel but already the new day of worship has become Sunday.

When Thomas was questioned by the disciples, he said he would check out the Lord Jesus for himself but when the opportunity afforded itself, he couldn't even raise his hand to do so!

A mature believer in Christ gives others their privacy and the Lord Jesus Christ His authority and that's exactly what the other disciples did in this case.

Jesus did not reply to Thomas simply with empirical answers but instead He responded by establishing His essence as God!

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Human viewpoint would be to rebuke and then teach while divine viewpoint is to teach and then rebuke which is a valuable lesson for parents and all who are in positions of authority.

More than likely, all the disciples had similar confrontations with Jesus as did Thomas and all were worked out magnificently.

The apostle John wrote this book: "that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and that believing, you might have life in His Name."