

He Is Risen!

Ponder: Why didn't the twelve understand? Would we?

Scripture: "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him" (Mk. 16:6, NKJV).

Have you seen those optical illusions that have a word or an image hidden in them. At first glance you think, "Huh? I don't see that at all!" Then, after you've stared at it awhile, you see it – and from that point on, it's all you can see. And you think, "Why didn't I see that before?"

That's pretty much how it was with Jesus' disciples (not just the twelve, but all the others, too). He told them repeatedly that "the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mk. 8:31). When I read those passages, I'm tempted to think, "What was the matter with those people! What He said was as plain as day. Why didn't they get it?" I'd like to think that if I had been there, I would have gotten it; I would have expected Him to rise from the dead; I wouldn't have been shocked and unbelieving like they were. But then I return to reality and face the fact that my intellect and my level of spirituality is not one bit superior to theirs.

The good news is, once they got it, they really got it! They totally got over their timidity and proclaimed the resurrection everywhere. Many of them went to their own death rather than deny Jesus and His resurrection.

Not insignificantly, the first person to actually see the resurrected Christ was a woman, Mary Magdalene. She and some other ladies went to the tomb early in the morning on the first day of the week. They came with one task in mind (finish anointing Jesus' dead body). But they learned a glorious truth (He is risen!). And they left with an entirely different task ("Go tell His disciples and Peter.") The resurrection changed everything! And it still does!

What difference has Jesus' resurrection made in your life? Do you "believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead" (Rom. 10:9)? Have you been immersed into His death and raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4)?

Song: "Buried With Christ"

Prayer: Mighty Father, our hearts are filled with joy because You raised Jesus our Savior from the dead. Without His death, burial, and resurrection, we would be hopelessly lost, doomed to be separated from You forever. But now we have the confident assurance that because He arose, we will, too! Help us to boldly proclaim Jesus and the resurrection, and may we so live as not to disgrace Him. In His name, Amen.