

“He Is Not Here, But Is Risen”

By Dale D. Robins

“Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen; remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” (Lk. 24:5-7)

On at least three different occasions during the personal ministry of Jesus, He told His disciples of what would happen to Him at the end. (1) Shortly after Peter affirmed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:16), Jesus explained that He would *“suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day”* (Matt. 16:21). (2) Following the wondrous events on the Mount of Transfiguration while they were still in Galilee, Jesus told them again, *“The Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry”* (Matt. 17:22-23). (3) As they were headed to Jerusalem before His Triumphal Entry, He said again, *“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again”* (Matt. 20:18-19). Jesus could not have made it much plainer, but the apostles did not take it to heart or believe that such could happen to such a wonderful man – to their mentor, to their Lord. But it did.

The betrayal, the mistreatment, and the horrific crucifixion came to pass just as Jesus had said, When the tomb was found empty on the first day of the week, the apostles could not accept the reality of that either. When Mary Magdalene brought them word of the empty tomb, they *“believed not”* (Mk. 16:11). When the two disciples hurried back to Jerusalem from Emmaus saying they had seen the Lord, *“neither believed they them”* (Mk. 16:13). Peter and John ran to the tomb and saw it was empty but did not know what to make of it (Jn. 20:2-10) *“for as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.”* The apostles were not so dim witted that they could not see what events had occurred and what the witnesses were saying, but they found it too fantastic to believe. They might have remembered what He said, but could this really be possible? Was there some other explanation? They were just totally befuddled until Jesus actually appeared in their midst.

It was still the first day of the week, but the apostles were behind closed doors *“for fear of the Jews”* when *“Jesus stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you”* (Jn. 20:19) and showed them His hands and His side. *“Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord”* (Jn. 20:20). As unbelievable as it seemed, the evidence was there. Jesus was alive! He had arisen from the dead!

Despite all the evidences in the gospels to prove Jesus is the Son of God and that He is our Risen Savior, many today still doubt and reject the impact of the story. But the story is real. Peter, one of those witnesses, said, *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ... Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God”* (1 Pet. 1:18-21). Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (Jn. 14:6). If you believe that Jesus is the risen Son of God (as the Ethiopian did – Acts 8:37) then you need to put on Christ in baptism for the salvation of your soul (Gal. 3:26-28).

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR the Story of the Gospel – Rom. 10:17

BELIEVE the evidence that Jesus is the Son of God – Jn. 3:16

REPENT of your past sins – Acts 17:30

CONFESS your conviction that Jesus is God's Son – Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED for the remission of sins – Acts 2:38