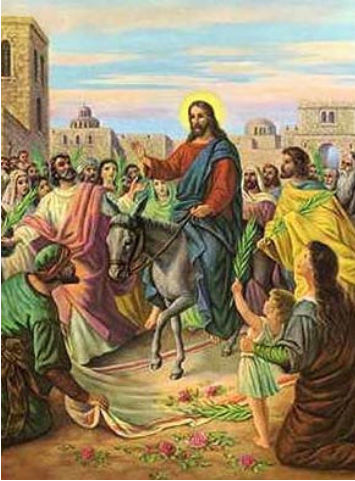


The Resurrection of Jesus

From the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The Triumphal Parade - the People Waving Palms to Jesus



As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem He asked two of his disciples to go ahead of Him. He said, "When you get to the town, you will see a young donkey colt tied up at a house. Untie it, and bring it to me. If anyone asks you about taking the colt, just tell them, 'The Lord needs it and He will bring it back as soon as He's done with it.'" So the disciples did as Jesus asked. They soon found the colt tied at a doorway. As they were untying it, some people were standing nearby visiting and they didn't recognize the men and asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that donkey colt?" They replied just as Jesus had told them too. Explaining that the Lord needed it and the people let them go.

When they brought the donkey to Jesus some of the disciples took off their coats and laid them on the donkey's back. They did this out of respect for the Lord. Then Jesus rode on the donkey towards Jerusalem. As He was traveling, some people saw Him and came running towards Him. They had heard He might be coming and they wanted to see Him because He had just helped a dead man, Lazarus, come back to life. One by one they laid their coats on the ground for the donkey to step on. Even the people that weren't wearing coats ran to the fields and trees nearby and cut palm branches and laid them down.

Some of these people knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah and were praising Him for coming to save them from their sins but there were many others that thought He was coming to release them from the hated Roman ruler ship, which was the government of the time. But these people had it all wrong. They wanted freedom from the Romans but that's not why Jesus was there. This was like when a King or Queen comes to town, and people roll out a red carpet for them to step on. They thought He was going to overthrow the Roman government and free them. So both groups had their reasons for saluting Him that day by laying down their coats and branches for Him. Only one group had it right.

As they got even closer to the town more and more people noticed Jesus. A crowd surrounded Him and started to shout praises to Him for all the miracles He had done. "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the

name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!" The word Hosanna means *save us*. They said this because again some of them knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah and had come to bring salvation to them and He was helping them and doing amazing things...miracles that proved He was the Messiah. They wanted to praise Him, and they wanted Him to keep helping them.



Some Pharisees (as you know these were the religious men of that time who believed all their good works would get them into Heaven and they thought that they were important, and a lot of the religious people listened to them). They heard the crowd praising God, and they said to Jesus, **"Teacher, why don't you tell these people to stop praising you as if you were God?"** As

you can see the Pharisees didn't believe in Him!! The Pharisees thought that Jesus was getting too much attention from the people. They wanted all the attention and they wanted to be the most important, but everyone was listening to Jesus instead. Jesus replied, **"If they were quiet now, even the rocks would cry out!"** Even the rocks that Jesus created knew that He was God the Messiah and could shout out the good news.

Now Jesus could see Jerusalem and as he approached the city, it made Him very sad. He came to help His people, the Jews but most didn't realize that He was the promised Messiah and God, and they didn't accept Him. They flat out rejected Him.

The Last Supper



On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples asked Jesus, **"Where would you like us to plan for you to eat the Passover feast?"** Jesus replied to them, **"Go into the city and you will find a man, and tell him that we would like to come to his house for Passover."**

First of all, what is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and what is the Passover? These are actually the same things. The Jews celebrated the Passover ever since the time of Moses, when the Lord saved all the Israelite babies by putting the sacrificed Lambs' blood on their door posts

in the shape of a cross so the death angel would pass them by. This was when the Lord 'passed over' their houses, and they were kept safe.

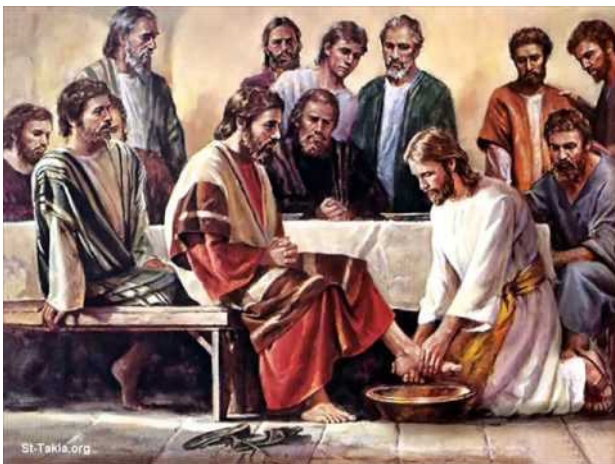


During the time of the Passover celebrations the people didn't eat or have any bread in their homes that was made with yeast. Yeast is what makes the bread rise up big and puffy. Without yeast the bread is flat, and that is called unleavened bread. Yeast in the Bible

represents SIN and the bread represented the SINLESS Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus is the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world.

The disciples did just as Jesus asked, and they found a place and got ready for the Passover. The evening came, and Jesus and the twelve disciples sat to eat the meal. The disciples were eating quietly; they had a lot on their minds. They were worried because some people, mostly the Pharisees and Scribes and Priests wanted to kill Jesus because he was getting so popular. The disciples didn't have the indwelling Holy Spirit yet to comfort them or help them to understand.

The disciples took their time eating and enjoying the supper with Jesus. They enjoyed talking with Him and asking Him questions. However, during the meal the devil already put it into the heart of Judas



Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God rose from the supper table and went to a different part of the room. He took off his everyday clothes, and put a large towel around him, making himself look like a servant. After that, he poured water into a large bowl and began to wash the disciples' feet. Then he dried them with the towel that was wrapped

around Him.

First of all, Jesus is a King...He's the King of King's! By washing the disciple's feet He was doing something that only a servant would do. This would be like if someone famous came to your house and started to clean your room, even getting down on their hands and knees to clean under your bed! It probably would never happen, right?

When it was Peter's turn to get his feet clean, he said to Jesus, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I am doing, but you will later." "No," said Peter, "you will never wash my feet." He said this because he didn't feel right having Jesus wash his feet like a servant. It made Peter very uncomfortable. He loved Jesus and knew Jesus was very special. Jesus replied back to him, "If I don't wash your feet, you cannot be with me." "Then, Lord," Peter replied, "Don't just wash my feet but wash my hands and head too." Jesus then explained "The one who has bathed (who is already saved by believing in Jesus) does not need to wash, except for his feet, because he is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."



When Jesus had finished washing all of the disciples' feet, he put his everyday clothes back on and returned to the table. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" Jesus asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and that is who I am. And now that I have washed your feet, you can also wash one another's feet." This is an example of how you should treat one another. You don't have to actually wash other

people's feet, but by doing nice things to other's and putting others before yourself with a servant's heart for Jesus is what He wants you to do...**love one another**. If you choose to do these things you will glorify Jesus and God the Father.

Jesus could see the disciples were worried. He said to them quietly, "I tell you the truth, one of you here will betray me." The disciples looked at each other in shock, and some of them asked Jesus, "It isn't me, is it Lord?" Jesus replied, "The one who dips his bread into the bowl with me will betray me. I will die, just as it is written, but the man who betrays me will feel regret forever. Then Judas, with his head down spoke quietly to Jesus, "It isn't me, is it?" Jesus answered, "Yes, you are the one." Judas'



head went down even lower; he had hoped that the other disciples had not heard what Jesus said. Jesus told him to leave and do that which he had to do and do it quickly.



After that Jesus thanked God for the bread, broke it (a picture of the His broken body on the Cross) and shared it with the disciples teaching them and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my (perfect) body which is given for you". They ate the bread.

Then he took a full cup of the wine, thanked God for it and said, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." This blood will be shed for the many people so their sins may be forgiven. Then the disciples all took a sip from the cup.



Jesus Prays

After the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples left and went to a garden called Gethsemane. It was getting quite late in the evening, so everyone was whispering. Jesus was especially quiet, and walked a bit ahead of the rest of the group. He looked extremely sad and very upset about what He had to do on the cross. He stopped and whispered to some of the disciples, "Sit here, while I pray." Then with Peter, James, and John He walked just a little bit further and told them, "My heart feels heavy, and I feel very sad. Please stay here and keep watch, I need some company close by." The disciples looked at each other; they had never seen Jesus like this before. Then Jesus walked a bit further by himself, next to a big tree he knelt down with his face to the ground and began to talk to God. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup (of suffering) pass from me; but not as I will, but as you will."



When He had finished praying he went back to where the disciples were and they had fallen asleep on the ground. Jesus woke them and said to them, "Couldn't you have stayed awake for me for just a little while? You should also pray that you would continue to do what God wants." The disciples felt

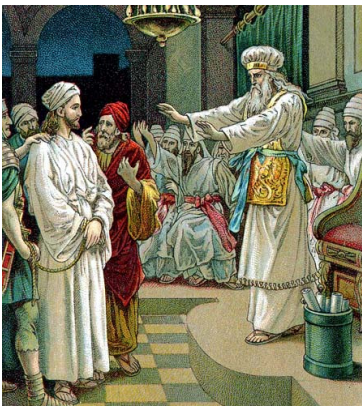
badly, and tried to keep their eyes open. But when they started praying, they fell asleep. Two more times Jesus went off to pray the same prayer as before, and when he was finished He came back to his friends disappointed. They had fallen asleep again. The third time Jesus woke them saying, "Are you sleeping again? Enough! It is time to go, here comes the man who is about to give me up to the people who want to kill me." You can see how human and weak they were.



While He was still speaking, Judas, the disciple who would betray Jesus was coming towards them. He was followed by a large crowd of Roman soldiers who were carrying swords and clubs. Judas walked right up to Jesus and gave Him a kiss on the cheek. This was a sign to the soldiers that this was Jesus, and that he was the man that they wanted to arrest.

Jesus let them take him. But one of Jesus disciples (Peter) didn't like what was happening; he wanted to protect Jesus. He took out his sword and cut off the ear of a one of the soldiers named Malchus. Immediately, before the situation got more out of hand Jesus spoke firmly, "Enough!" He reached up to the man whose ear had been hurt and healed it instantly.

Then Jesus spoke to all those around him. "If I wanted I could pray to my Father for help, and He would send angels to protect me, and stop this. But I know that this needs to happen in order to fulfill the prophecy about me in the Scripture." The disciples didn't know what to do. They were afraid that they might be arrested for being with Jesus so they quickly ran away, leaving Jesus to be arrested alone. Peter was the only disciple that secretly followed Jesus. He was careful to follow at a distance, because he was afraid. He wanted to see what would happen to Jesus.

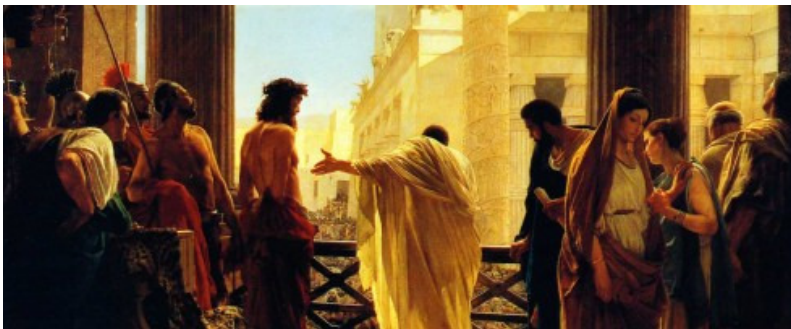


They took Jesus to the man named Caiaphas; he was the high priest (Head of the Pharisees and priests). This is where all the so called 'important' people had gathered. They were trying to find a reason to arrest Jesus and have him killed but He had never done anything wrong. People deliberately made up lies about Him so they would kill Him.

Finally Caiaphas asked Jesus, "Are you saying that you are the Messiah, the Son of God?" When Jesus replied "I am," Caiaphas couldn't believe it. He even tore his clothes because he thought what Jesus was saying was untrue. Remember they didn't believe He was the Messiah...the Savior of the world. They were hard hearted and that's when they decided that they must kill him. They were blind as can be.

Meanwhile, Peter was just outside the building where they had taken Jesus. A servant girl saw Peter and had recognized him and asked, "Weren't you with that man named Jesus?" But Peter lied and said, "You don't know what you're talking about." Peter started to walk away, but the girl spoke louder so the other people who were around could hear, "I'm sure you are one of His friends." Again Peter said, "No, I don't know what you're talking about." After a while more people asked Peter the same thing, and Peter started to get upset by this, and he said in a loud voice, "I don't know the man you are talking about; I've never talked to him." Right after Peter said this a rooster crowed, and Peter remembered something Jesus had said to him. "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." When Peter remembered this he was very sad...crushed in his soul. Peter was one of Jesus closest friends, and now he had lied and said he didn't even know Him. Peter started to sob. How could he have done this to Jesus?

Jesus Dies on the Cross



Very early in the morning, the soldiers brought Jesus to Pilate, the governor at the time. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Yes, I am." This upset the chief priests because they hated Jesus and were

jealous of Him and the friends He had made with the Jewish people who believed in Him.

Pilate listened to the complaints of the people that brought Jesus, but he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. Pilate questioned Jesus, but Jesus didn't stick up for Himself (He knew that they wouldn't listen anyway and God's plan had to be fulfilled). He had done nothing wrong. Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him." After they heard that all the people shouted, "Away with this man (Jesus), and release Barabbas instead!"



Barabbas had been in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. (It sounds strange but it was like peer pressure. The chief priests went around telling the people lies about Jesus, so that they would be afraid of Him, and want to kill Him). The crowd was frenzied...crazy.

Pilate didn't like this one bit. He wanted to let Jesus go, so he tried to talk to the people but they didn't let him. They just kept shouting, "**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**" Pilate tried again, yelling, "**What has Jesus done wrong? I can punish Him but then I must let Him go, He doesn't deserve to die!**" Even Pilate's wife warned Pilate not to order Jesus' death because she had a nightmare about this very thing. Pilate wanted desperately not to kill Jesus. He was frightened beyond words and he should have been!!! But the people just shouted louder and louder to crucify Jesus and Pilate finally agreed to their demands after the priests said that he didn't have allegiance to Caesar!! Pilate couldn't have that so to please the crowd he freed Barabbas and sent Jesus to die.

The soldiers led Jesus into the palace dungeon and tortured Him for hours, punching Him and whipping Him. They even pulled out His beard and afterward His face didn't look like a man's face anymore. They made Him put on an old royal robe and they twisted together a crown of thorns to put on His head. They made fun of Him and said, "**Hail, king of the Jews.**"

They didn't understand that He was the real King, that's why they made fun of Him. Next the soldiers led Jesus toward a hill called Golgotha outside of the city. He was weak after the beatings and torture. They made Him carry the cross on His back, but Jesus couldn't carry it the whole way, he fell down. The soldiers had whipped His back raw and it hurt so much that Jesus couldn't handle the weight of the cross on His shoulders and back because His skin was gone. A man named Simon



happened to be near Jesus when He fell, and the soldiers grabbed him, and made him carry the cross the rest of the way. The soldiers offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh, which would have dulled the pain but Jesus refused to take it.

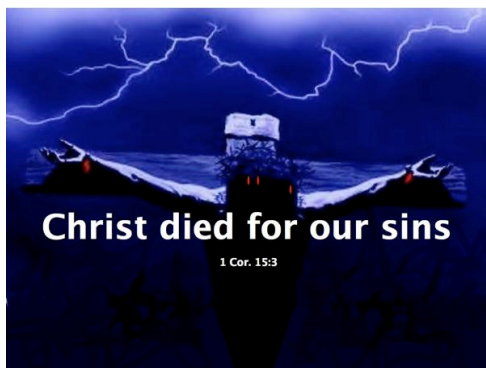
When they reached the top of the hill they nailed Jesus to the cross. There were three crosses, Jesus was in the middle and there was a criminal on His right and on His left. Pilate made a sign to be put on the cross. It read what He was being punished for:

"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."



The soldiers watched Jesus and made fun of Him. They gambled for His robe and even divided up His clothes. They were very cruel...they didn't know who He truly was...their SAVIOR. Jesus said **"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."**

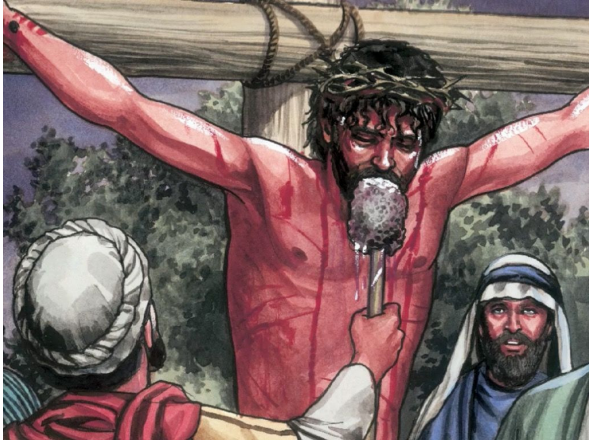
And some people walked by and shouted, **"You saved others, why can't you save yourself?"** Jesus could have saved Himself, but He chose not to, He wanted to save us instead. Jesus ignored the people, but He did see His mother and some other women He knew. Jesus felt bad for His mother, she was so sad to see her son die.



It was now the sixth hour (noon) and it became pitch black all over the whole land until the ninth hour (3:00 PM) while the sins of the entire world were being poured out on Jesus and His Father abandoned Him while this was happening. The sun's light failed and the curtain or veil in the temple tore in two. This deep darkness was so the people who murdered Him could not see His excruciating pain while taking on the penalty for our sins through His body.

At this time when Jesus was being pierced through His body by the sins of the entire world, He kept screaming, **"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is, My God, my God why have you forsaken (abandoned) me?"** All the human torture He endured could not be compared to the terrible pain of being separated from God the Father and God the Holy Spirit while our sins were pouring through Him for three hours. He was suffering the pain of the

Lake of Fire in our place. Oh how He must love us to do this in our place. Think about it, kids.



After he paid the price for our sins, He said, **"I thirst."** One of the soldiers ran and took a sponge and filled it with vinegar and put it on a reed and gave Him a drink.

Then Jesus saw one of his disciples (John) close to his mother, and he said, **"Mother here is your son, and friend here is your mother."** Jesus couldn't say too much, he was very weak. But he wanted His friend, the disciple John to be like a son to His mother, and take care of her. And from that day on John did just that.

Then when all of the prophecies about Jesus' death on the cross had been fulfilled, Jesus said **"It is finished."** Salvation was completed. That is when Jesus bowed His head and called out in a loud voice and said, **"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."** Then He breathed His last and His spirit went to Heaven.

One of the Roman soldiers saw all of this and he said, **"Surely this man was the Son of God!"** He realized he had been wrong about Jesus and he believed and was saved that day.

It seems like a really sad story, but it is the greatest story of all time! Jesus died knowing that you and I would sin...like not obeying your parents, saying something mean to your sister or brother, or not telling the truth. There are many more sins. But He knew what you and I would do when He died so many years ago. Jesus died for everybody's sins and now we are forgiven for all of them. That's right, He forgets what we did!

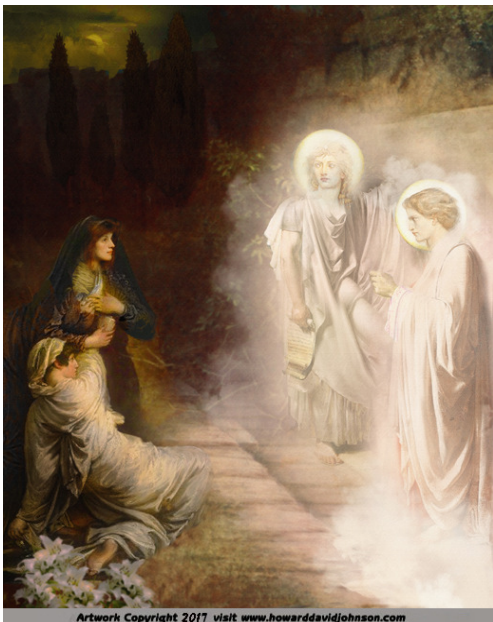
Now that doesn't mean we should go on sinning all the time, because by doing that, it's like we're hurting Jesus all over again. So we study His Word every day to become more like Him and be guided by the Holy Spirit so He can help us to not sin so much. So next time you deliberately do something you're not supposed to, remember God the Father forgave you in Jesus Christ. You can thank Him for Jesus, who did EVERYTHING for us on the Cross! **"For God so loved the world that he gave his One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."**
John 3:16

Jesus is Alive!



After Jesus died a man named Joseph from Arimathea, a Pharisee who believed in Jesus, put Jesus' body in his own tomb. The tombs they used back then were cut out of rock, almost like a cave. They weren't buried deep in the ground like they are now. Before Joseph left, he and some men rolled a large heavy stone in front of the tomb to seal it.

Now there had been Roman guards watching the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. The Pharisees and religious leaders were afraid the apostles would steal Jesus' body to say He was resurrected. Two angels put the guards into a sound sleep so the guards didn't have a clue as to what had happened.



Mary, the mother of James and Mary Magdalene had waited a day before they went to Jesus' tomb because they couldn't go to see Him on Saturday the Sabbath. They made spices and oils to put on His body in the grave as a sign of respect to Jesus. The women arrived very early on Sunday morning. As they were just about at the tomb the same angels who put the guards to sleep appeared to them. They sat on top of the rolled away stone. When the ladies saw the angels they fell over and they couldn't move or speak because they were so afraid. They couldn't believe what they were seeing. They probably thought they were dreaming.

The angels were so bright, almost as bright as lightning. Their clothes were as white as snow. Then one angel said to the women, **"Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died. But He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself, the tomb is empty."**





The women were confused. How could this happen? They were sure Jesus had died, and now He was alive? They looked in the tomb and the funeral cloths Jesus was wrapped in were lying on the ground, and the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus He's on His way to Galilee." The women hurried away, they were laughing and crying at the same time. They didn't know what to feel, they had been so sad that Jesus was dead and now they were so excited He was alive! They just knew they had to find Jesus, and they had to tell the disciples the good

news. As they were running down the path they turned a corner, and there was Jesus. "Greetings," He said. The ladies fell at His feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to come to Galilee. That is where they will see me."

The disciples came to Galilee, and had heard by this time that Jesus was alive. They were sitting around talking about it, when Jesus walked through the door into the room and said to



them, "Peace be with you." The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were shocked to see Him standing there with them. They couldn't believe their eyes. Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me like you've just seen a ghost? Why don't you believe what you're seeing? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see I am not a ghost but a real person." The disciples' mouths were open in amazement because they still didn't know what to think. They were so full of joy, and yet it was so impossible. Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen

that has already been written in the Bible." Remember they didn't have the indwelling Holy Spirit yet and got confused easily.

Jesus promised the Spirit's leading to the apostles

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26)

Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies about His death, burial and resurrection. Jesus had told the disciples all about it several times and especially at their Last Supper together. They took the bread at communion and Jesus said, 'this is my body which I have given to you...' but the disciples hadn't understood what it really meant because they didn't have the understanding. But soon they

would because Jesus told them, "You have seen these things that have happened, so stay in the city and soon I am going to give you what God has promised you, the Holy Spirit."

When we become Christians Jesus automatically gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. That is called indwelling. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's Word which is the mind of Jesus and he guides our lives as we learn how to be like Jesus and gives us a conscience to know when we have done something wrong. He makes our conscience realize when we sin. We might feel very bad afterwards. That is the Holy Spirit reminding us that we are doing something wrong and that we need to stop the bad behavior.

Jesus had one more person to see. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the Apostles that wasn't there when Jesus met with them in Galilee. Thomas had also heard that Jesus was alive, but would not believe it until he saw Jesus with his own eyes. A week later when Thomas finally saw Him, Jesus said to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe." Jesus continued, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but it is more amazing for those who have never see me, and believe anyway."



It's really cool, but Jesus was actually talking about us when He said that. When you believed in Him, without seeing Him, He thinks you're very special! That's exactly what faith is, believing in God even though you can't see Him. Without faith we cannot please God.

Jesus Loves You

Jesus appeared several times to the disciples after He rose from the dead. This is a story of one of those times...



Peter said to some of the other disciples, "I think I'm going to go fishing." The disciples that were there said, "Wait up, we'll go with you." It was getting dark outside but the disciples thought they would catch more fish at this time of day. They got into the boat and went out onto the water, and were out there for a long time. The time passed and it was almost morning and they still hadn't caught any fish. Jesus knew where His disciples were and went out to meet them. He was standing on shore, but the disciples didn't realize who it was. Jesus called to them, "Friends, haven't you caught any fish?" "No," they answered. So Jesus told them, "Throw your net on the other side of the boat and you will catch some."

What happened next was amazing. The disciples, who had been fishing all night without catching anything, threw the net over to the other side and within minutes the net was overflowing with fish. Then one of the disciples realized who had been talking to them, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Peter heard this he jumped out of the boat to go to Jesus. (They weren't that far from shore). The other disciples stayed in the boat, and worked hard to tow all the fish to shore.





When they met up with Jesus, there was a fire started with some bread laying close by. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have caught, we'll have breakfast together."

Peter helped the rest of the disciples to get the fish out of the boat. There were so many fish and they were all so big that they all needed to lift together to get the fish out of the boat because it was so heavy. Then they all sat together in front of the warm fire and Jesus took the bread and the fish and gave it to them. This was the third time Jesus had met with the disciples since He rose from the dead.

After breakfast Jesus asked Peter some important questions. He asked him, "Peter do you love me more than your parents and all your friends?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Again Jesus said, "Peter do you truly love me, no matter what?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" Peter's feelings were hurt because Jesus kept asking him, but he replied, "Lord, you know the answer, you know that I love you." "Then follow me," Jesus said.



We must do the same...bring others the Good News about Jesus. We've learned that Jesus died on the cross because He loves us! Now we need to love Jesus and others as He asked us to love them.

He rose from the dead in complete Resurrection to give us LIFE and life abundantly here on earth and for eternity in heaven. He defeated SIN, SATAN, the WORLD, and DEATH in 3 days! Think of what he can do for you while you live here on earth as part of His family.

We need to always remember that no matter what happens to us here on earth, Jesus loves us, and He will never, ever stop loving us! Sometimes things happen that we don't understand, but Jesus knows everything and He will help us if we ask Him to.

This life is a VERY short life compared to eternity. Don't lay up treasures here on earth...LAY THEM UP IN HEAVEN. Learn the Word of God and live it. Jesus loves it when you do that.

Close in prayer

