

“NOT SEEN AND BELIEVED”

By Keith Greer

" ... 'We have seen the Lord' So he said to them, 'unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe'." {John 20:25}

While He was with His disciples, teaching them, He also tried to prepare them for His departure. Did they understand?

"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'" {John 2:19}

"Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee'." {Matthew 26:31,32}

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." {John 16:7}

"... Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" {Acts 1:6} They just never seemed to put it together! When we read the account, it's easy to comprehend what He is saying. Why did they fail to make the connection?

"And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'." {John 20:28,29}

This was evidence which could not be disputed! All the miracles, teaching in parables, and private tutoring sessions, were not as powerful as His resurrection! Seeing the nail scarred hands and the hole in His side, Thomas **BELIEVED!**

What about you and me? We are not "living" eyewitnesses; none are left today. Does this diminish our faith in Him? Do we need to see what Thomas saw to believe? If so, then we will never be His disciples!

A comment was once made to me that went like this: "It's hard to believe in somebody you can't see." Yet, is that so? Let me explain why, with me, this is not so.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." {Psalm 19:1}

Every time I see a blue sky with beautiful white clouds or a night with all the stars of the heavens sparkling, I believe!

"For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." {Psalm 33:9} Could it all have happened by pure accident? No my friend. Creation speaks volumes for order and design, which means intelligence.

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." {Luke 19:10} No man's life had the impact on mankind that this One life had and still continues to have. Christ was special, make no mistake about it!

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." {John 17:5}

For me, personally, the most compelling evidence is that He gave up His lofty estate in Heaven to come down to earth, to exchange splendor and beauty for sin, death, pain and suffering. No, I was not with Thomas and the other disciples. Yet, I believe like they did. Why? It's the only answer that makes sense. Look, ponder and above all **BELIEVE!** ***