

Unbelief

4-4-21

John 20:29 (ESV)

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Jesus has suffered a monstrous, cruel death which dashed every hope of his disciples which also exposed their unbelief.

Unbelief – Poor Weeping Devastated Mary

Unbelief – Poor Frighten Disillusioned Disciples

Unbelief – Poor Pragmatic Doubting Thomas

Unbelief – Our unbelief, what does it look like? Do we believe in the Resurrection? We say, “Yes.” If so, then do believe other Biblical truths like Romans 8:31, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Jesus told these disciples that HE would die and be resurrected. However, after witnessing HIS honorific death their grief and unbelief consumed them. As we look at look the unbelief of the disciples, let it be a lesson for us not to get caught up in our own unbelief.

Mary Magdalen

John 20:11–18 (ESV)

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

You have to love Mary; she went to the tomb. Traditionally know as a prostitute and Luke 8:2 says Jesus cast our seven demons from her. Yet while the disciples were hiding, she was bold enough to go to the tomb. Even though she didn’t understand the resurrection, she is an example of what Jesus said in Luke 7:47, those whom much is forgiven, love much. However, Mary is no longer weeping. She is no longer devastated because she has seen the resurrected Jesus. She now is telling others which is a beautiful example to us.

The Disciples

John 20:19–21 (ESV)

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Here we have Jesus’ disciples specifically chosen by HIM, who spent three and one-half years learning from HIM, plus ministering miracles on HIS behalf. Yet we see them locked in a building fearful for their lives. However, once seeing the resurrected Jesus, they are rejoicing. Jesus immediately gives them the commission to share the truth. Again, an example for us to overcome our doubt and share the truth of Jesus.

Doubting Thomas

John 20:24–29 (ESV)

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Thomas who also spent three and one-half years with Jesus and now is even hearing all these eyewitnesses is not believing a word of it. You can hear him say, “Face reality, Jesus was crucified! HE is not coming back!” We should notice that the disciples were still behind locked doors. They still were not being the best witnesses to the risen Jesus. However, Jesus appears to the pragmatic, face reality, Thomas, and says, “Put your finger in the hole of my hands and the hole in my side.” After seeing the resurrected Jesus, Thomas says, “My Lord and my God!” Now Jesus says something to Thomas that directly applies to each and every one of us, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

What changes Unbelief to Belief is an encounter with the resurrected Jesus. We may not have physically seen HIM, but we have experienced HIM through the Scripture, other believers, or answered prayer, etc. This Easter as we focus on the resurrected Jesus remember the words Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

We are so blessed! We should introduce others that they may experience HIM!

Acts 16:31 (ESV)

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

