

Easter

Redemption-Resurrection-Repentance-Renewal

3/27/2016

Do you believe?

John 20:19 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."

1. Still in unbelief even though He had revealed himself.
 - a. To the women-2 disciples (Peter and John)-and 2 other disciples on the road to Emmaus
2. The Scriptures that told the story were still as yet unclear as the Lord needed to explain them.

Luke 24:36-49 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "**Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

1. The truth has been revealed and presented to them in the flesh
 - a. The scars in his hands and feet
 - b. He ate a piece of fish with them
 - c. He then opened their minds
2. The clear explanation of the Redemption story from the Redeemer
 - a. An undeniable connection between repentance and forgiveness of sins is professed
 - b. A command is directed to the disciples and assumed for others then and to come

Mark 16:14-16 Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. **And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.**

1. A stern warning is given to not persist in unbelief
2. Belief is equated with salvation and unbelief carries a sentence of guilty

The Joy of this day is rightfully tempered by the enormous responsibility to be His witnesses

**He has overcome-He broke the power of sin and death-He has risen
He offers new life to all who believe**

Will you believe?