

What Did Jesus Do Those 40 Days After Resurrection?

One of the most significant periods of the church calendar, and least celebrated or noted, is the 40 Days after Jesus rose from the dead. He walked and talked in places where His ministry had been; He was seen in His restored body by thousands; He healed many; He continued to preach, He continued to love. And then He ascended to Heaven, taken up in the sky, which also was witnessed by others.

We really should think more about these 40 Days, and the significance of the Ascension:

- 1) Jesus' birth had been according to Scripture.
- 2) His miracles had shown His power.
- 3) His preaching had taught the world wisdom.
- 4) His persecution and death had fulfilled prophecies.
- 5) That He conquered death was an astonishing miracle.

But His ascension to Heaven - His bodily rise to be with the Father at the Throne, the mystery of rejoining the Godhead - more than any detail of these other manifestations, confirms the Divinity of Jesus Christ.

For 40 Days Jesus showed the world that He lived again. **The Sanhedrin had called Jesus a blasphemer, and others claimed His miracles were of the devil...** but His 40 days in Jerusalem and surrounding areas, **being seen by multitudes, was scarcely disputed.** The contemporary Jewish historian Josephus referred to it, as did other writers. Two generations later, the writer Eusebius interviewed many people who had known people who saw Jesus during these days, told of miracles, even cited sermons and letters of the risen Jesus.

In other words, some people might not have joined the Christ-followers - although believers multiplied rapidly, even in the face of persecution and soon thereafter - **but very few people disputed that He rose from the dead.**

The number 40 appears 146 times in the Holy Bible, a number of God's significance:

- 1) We think of Noah
- 2) Of the years in the wilderness
- 3) Of the days, Moses was on the Mount
- 4) Of Jonah and Nineveh
- 5) In Jesus' case, the number of days He was tempted of the devil
- 6) The number of days between the Resurrection and the Ascension

Usually this number signifies testing, trials, probation, or a provision of prosperity. I believe the last comes closest to the Risen Lord's season before He Ascended. **They certainly were active days.** The last verse of the last Gospel's last book (St. John 21:25) tells us, "²⁵ **And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.**"

Yet as busy as He must have been, I have a picture in my mind of Jesus alone, also, maybe when darkness fell, down lonely paths, maybe through storms and cold silences, walking the

dark hills, not responding to the curious crowds, but seeking out the troubled and the hurting individuals.

This is a plausible picture, because Jesus still does this today; utilizing the Comforter and his Angels.

It was in His nature:

- 1) Remember the "ninety and nine," the one lost sheep the shepherd sought
- 2) Remember His words, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock"
- 3) Remember His story of the father rejoicing over the prodigal son who repents and returns and is restored
- 4) Remember His admonition to be "fishers of men"
- 5) Remember Him weeping over Jerusalem
- 6) Remember the promise that "Whosoever" believes should not perish but have eternal life

I believe that He has His Eyes are on the hills and the plains even today, looking for us; the lost - piercing the gloom with the joyful hope that can be ours... provided we choose to accept it of course.

God, Bless you...

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