

A True Witness

by Julie Luetke

In order to sit on the witness stand in a court of law you must have been a witness to an event. You must have been there and seen it with your own eyes. The court needs to find the truth and eye witnesses are key.



We've just concluded those days between Easter and Jesus' Ascension. Jesus spent those 40 days showing himself alive to his followers. Paul tells us that at one time over 500 people saw Jesus alive. Jesus had to rise in order to be the victor over sin. We have to believe Jesus did rise!

Jesus did many things to help His disciples believe. He showed them the nail prints in His hands and feet and the mark of the spear in His side. He ate with them, left footprints in the sand. Jesus breathed on them; they could feel the movement of the air. When He touched them they felt bone and muscle. Jesus was preparing His disciples to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth ...eye witnesses that would stand up in the courts of people's hearts.

As I taught Sunday school two weeks ago, our lesson was on Jesus appearing to His disciples on Easter night. Jesus appeared in a locked room to disciples still gripped with fear. Jesus appeared to them to show He was alive. I turned to one of my students (a 9 year old) and told him, "I sprained my ankle this week and it is all purple. Do you believe me?" His answer came slowly, "Well, yes, but I'd like to see it." I took off my shoe and sock and revealed a badly bruised and swollen foot. All six of the students quickly said, "I believe, I believe!" That is what Jesus did. He made them eye witnesses.

The work Jesus did on earth to live a perfect life for us, take our punishment for sin and rise to win over death and hell has to be told by witnesses to the ends of the earth. The disciples are gone but the words they wrote are not. The Bible is the account of the eye witnesses to an ALIVE Jesus. The disciples witnessed the miracles, the acts of love and kindness, the suffering, the death on the cross and the many visits from an ALIVE Jesus after the resurrection.

We all tend to believe a story told by an eye witness. God went one step farther. He put the thoughts and the words into the hearts and minds of the writers of the Bible so there would be no mistakes.

2 Timothy 3:16 says: *All Scripture is God-breathed.*

2 Peter 1:21: *Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Numbers 23:19: *God is not a man, that He should lie.*

John 17:17: *Your Word is truth.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13: *When you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God.*



Season: Pentecost/early spring

Video: 5. What is Your Personal Ministry?

Devotions: 71. Drop that Stone!

157. Forgiveness

Prayers: 13. Heavenly Father, thank you for providing us with faithful pastors...

14. Almighty God, our Fortress in times of trouble...

Super Girl: 112. Harped on. Berated. Made to feel less than. Criticized. Put down...

Scripture References: Romans 15:4; Acts 1:16; Hebrews 6:18; 2 Samuel 7:28; Romans 10:17

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