



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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THE “GIVER-UPPERS”



CONSIDER THE SCENE OF GREAT SADNESS AS THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SAW HIM CRUCIFIED. WHEN JESUS GAVE UP THE GHOST (MATTHEW 27:50) HIS FOLLOWERS GAVE UP THEIR HOPE.

THINK OF DISCOURAGED PETER. THREE TIMES HE HAD DENIED THE LORD (LUKE 22:54-61) AND THE FINAL TIME LUKE RECORDS THAT JESUS LOOKED RIGHT AT HIM (V.61). HE LEFT THE COURTYARD AND BITTERLY WEPT. HE GAVE UP ON JESUS AND GAVE IN TO SIN.

THEN TOO THERE WERE THE DEJECTED WOMEN. MARK 16:1 TELLS US THAT THREE WOMEN BROUGHT SPICES TO THE TOMB TO ANOINT THE BODY OF JESUS. IT WASN'T A PLEASANT TASK, BUT SOMEONE HAD TO MORE THOROUGHLY PREPARE THE BODY FOR GRAVE CONDITIONS. SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PASSED AND THEY'VE GIVEN UP ON ANY THOUGHT OF A RESURRECTION.

LUKE 22 RECORDS THE TESTIMONY OF TWO DISAPPOINTED FOLLOWERS RETURNING HOME TO EMMAUS THE SUNDAY AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION. THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THEM TO REMAIN IN JERUSALEM WHEN THEIR MASTER WAS DEAD. (VS. 13-20). THEY HAD HOPED HE WOULD BE ISRAEL'S REDEEMER (V.21), BUT SUCH WAS APPARENTLY NOT TO BE THE CASE.

THE DESPONDENT DISCIPLES WERE ALSO AMONG THE “GIVER-UPPERS.” THOUGH INFORMED BY MARY MAGDALENE AND THEN THE EMMAUS DISCIPLES THAT JESUS HAD INDEED RISEN (MARK 16:9-13) THEY REFUSED TO BELIEVE IT (MARK 16:11). A RESURRECTED CHRIST WAS JUST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

WHAT'S TRULY AMAZING IS THAT THESE “GIVER-UPPERS” WERE TRANSFORMED INTO THE “GOING-OUTERS” AFTER THEY SAW THE RESURRECTED CHRIST!

DISCOURAGED PETER RECEIVED A PERSONAL VISIT FROM JESUS (LUKE 24:34) AND THEN TOLD THE OTHER DISCIPLES. MARY MAGDALENE, ONE OF THE DEJECTED WOMEN IN MARK 16:1, SAW JESUS AND ANNOUNCED TO THE DISCIPLES THAT HE HAD RISEN (JOHN 20:18). FURTHERMORE, THE DISAPPOINTED EMMAUS DISCIPLES QUICKLY RETURNED TO JERUSALEM TO INFORM OTHERS OF JESUS'S RESURRECTION (LUKE 24:33). AMAZINGLY, THOSE DESPONDENT DISCIPLES WERE WITNESSES OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY AND SENT TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT SALVATION THROUGH HIM (MATTHEW 28:16-20).

IN JOHN 16:20 JESUS PREDICTED THAT THOSE WHO FOLLOWED HIM WOULD WEEP AND LAMENT BUT THAT THEIR GRIEF WOULD BE TURNED TO JOY. SUCH WAS CERTAINLY THE CASE. THE HOPELESS BECAME HOPE-FILLED. THE REALITY IS THAT “GIVER-UPPERS” BECAME “GOING-OUTERS.”

MIGHT WE NEVER GIVE UP ON THE GOSPEL OF JESUS AND CONSISTENTLY GO OUT PROCLAIMING HIS TRUTH TO OTHERS.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE