

Easter surprise

When Jesus rose from the dead, though he presented himself in the flesh, and though he had foretold it would happen, it took every one of his followers by surprise!

They had to learn three things –

First, *don't look for the living among the dead!* Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women couldn't understand why Jesus' tomb was empty.

So God sent them two messengers who said, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!” Luke 24.5-6. Then they remembered what Jesus had said.

Second, *don't treat Christ's promises with unbelief.* The women returned from the tomb to tell Jesus' apostles what had happened and that Jesus was risen from the dead “and their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.” Luke 24.11. It took Jesus' later appearances to his disciples to change that.

Third, *don't miss seeing Christ's resurrection through the eyes of faith.* The apostle Peter was moved to investigate the women's report. He “arose and ran to the tomb.” Luke 24.12.

No doubt what he saw amazed him. If we had been there, would we have had the eyes of faith to believe?

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We live and die. Christ died and lives.

Ken Packer