

New Morning Magical – for 7-20-20

Happy are those who are not perceiving and believe

Before we move on to the Apostle Paul's unique meeting with the risen Messiah, let's look toward the end of John 20. Yeshua has been resurrected for some time and already appeared to most of the disciples, but we discover that Thomas wasn't with them.

Let's pick up the story now in verse 24:

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, termed Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples, then, said to him, "We have seen the Lord!" Yet he said to them, "Should I not perceive in His hands the print of the nails, and thrust my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will by no means be believing."

You've probably heard the term, "Doubting Thomas" referring to anyone who refuses to believe something, no matter what the evidence. That term came about because of this lone disciple who basically says, *"I don't care what you say you've seen. The only way I'm going to buy that you've seen the same Yeshua Whom we used to know is if I SEE the nail prints, put my fingers into those prints, and put my hand INTO the cut in His side that as made by the Roman sword."*

Now watch what happens, beginning in verse 26:

26 And after eight days His disciples were again within, and Thomas was with them. [I wonder where Yeshua was for those 8 days? No idea. There isn't anything written about it.] The doors having been locked, Jesus is coming and stood in the midst and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Thereafter He is saying to Thomas, "Bring your finger here and perceive My hands, and bring your hand and thrust it into My side, and do not become unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

You realize that Yeshua was not present when Thomas went on his doubting rant. So, how did Yeshua know about it? I'll simply say that this is a good occasion to remind yourself that you cannot hide anything from the Father or the Son. If you ever think that you have some big secret or area of your life that you're hiding from everyone; God sees it as if it were in bright daylight. This realization hit me years ago when I was horrified with all that I had

hidden from others throughout various times in my life, because I realized that the Father has a gigantic searchlight that He trains on you that exposes absolutely everything. There is no corner He can't see into, and shadows dissolve under His searchlight; so hiding from Him or hiding anything from Him is stupid, because He knows everything and sees everything.

OK, so Yeshua has called out Thomas, and now let's go to verse 29:

29 Now Jesus is saying to him, "Seeing that you have seen Me, you have believed. **Happy are those who are not perceiving and believe.**"

You and I are among, "**those who are not perceiving and believe,**" and it's a big deal to God for you to trust Him, to believe in His Son, especially when you've never laid eyes on Him. This is the height of faith. We believe, without having physically seen or heard Yeshua, and God especially honors your faith in Him, your trust in Him, that Yeshua's birth, death, and resurrection, are real and that you're deliberately choosing to believe in the absence of other evidence.

Yeshua spent a total of 40 days after He was resurrected until a day when He was taken up into Heaven in front of 500 witnesses.

Let's pick the story up in Acts 1:

4 And, being foregathered, He charges them not to be departing from Jerusalem, but to be remaining about **for the promise of the Father, "which you hear of Me,**

5 seeing that John, indeed, baptizes in water, yet you shall be baptized in holy spirit after not many of these days."

Essentially, Yeshua says, just go cool your jets until the holy spirit comes.

6 Those, indeed, then, who are coming together, asked Him, saying, "Lord, art Thou at this time restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

7 Yet He said to them, "Not yours is it to know times or eras which the Father placed in His own jurisdiction.

Here's an important insight: You and I are not going to figure out God's timing for anything. Yeshua says it all in verse 7: "*Not yours is it to know times or eras which the Father placed in His own jurisdiction.*" The Father keeps timing to Himself. To me, this is one of the hardest lessons in trusting God. My experience, for what it's worth, is that the Father will always show you the "what"; sometimes He'll tell you the "why"; rarely does He show you the "when"; and I've

never known Him to say anything about the “how.” He clearly reserves the HOW, if for no other reason than, as Barbara says, “*God just likes to show off to His children.*” And it really does feel like He gets a kick out of blowing our socks off from time to time.

Here’s the thing about God’s timing: He’ll test your every last nerve while you’re waiting for Him to move. We humans are NOT patient. We like instant pudding, but again, as Barbara says, “*It’s hard to rush someone as old as God.*” His timing is never ours. He’s never late, but I’ve never known Him to be early; mostly, He’s just in time, and that makes people nuts, but that’s what faith or trust is all about.

There is great benefit to waiting on the Father patiently, as Isaiah wrote in 40:31:

Yet those who are expectant in Yahweh, -- “*Those who wait upon YaHoVeH*”
they shall rejuvenate with vigor; -- “*They shall renew their strength*”
They shall ascend on pinions like vultures; -- “*They shall mount up with wings like eagles.*”
They shall run and not be wearied;
They shall walk and not faint.

Here’s the point: WAIT FOR GOD to do what you’ve asked Him or what He’s shown you He’ll do. One of the biggest mistakes I think people make is asking over and over again for the same thing, as if God is hard of hearing. He heard you the first time, so CHILL!

You probably know the saying in Psalm 46:10: “*Be still and know that I am God.*”

In the original Hebrew it says, “*Relax and know that I am Elohim.*”

Isn’t that great?! “*Relax, chill out, I’ve got this.*”

OK, back to Yeshua’s instructions in Acts 1:

8 But you shall be obtaining power at the coming of the holy spirit on you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in entire Judea and Samaria, and as far as the limits of the earth.”

9 And saying these things, while they are looking, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him up from their eyes.

10 And as they were looking intently into heaven at His going, lo ! two men stand beside them in white attire,

11 who say also, “Men! Galileans! Why do you stand, looking into heaven? This Jesus Who is being taken up from you into heaven shall come thus, in the manner in which you gaze at Him going into heaven.”

Sounds like police officers taking control of a scene, doesn't it? *"Move along now, nothing to see here. He'll be back just like you saw Him leave. Go on about your business now."*

Later during the feast of Pentecost, the Holy spirit fell exactly as Yeshua said it would.

A whole new chapter began in human history, when the messenger, Gabriel, visited Mary – or Miriam – in Nazareth, and Yeshua – the only begotten Son of the Father of all creation – arrived as an infant, grew into manhood, heralded the word of the Kingdom to save the nation of Israel, died a horrible death at the hands of those He came to save, and was raised out from among the dead to be seen by His closest followers, and was taken up into heaven in front of a multitude, and who was promised to come again by two messengers standing by. Then the holy spirit falls on the disciples exactly as Yeshua promised and a new relationship with the Father suddenly became available to anyone who believes in His Son.

There's one more big lesson from this first chapter of Acts that I want to get to, but it'll wait until tomorrow, Lord willing.

So until then:

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;

May Yahweh light up His face toward you

and be gracious to you;

May Yahweh lift His face to you

and appoint peace for you.

AMEN