

Because I Live

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 14:19, "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also." Jesus has been telling the apostles about his leaving them, but that they would not be abandoned. He would dwell within the believer and be there to comfort and to guide them. The apostles were saddened to think that Jesus would leave them, although he had told them of this several times. They were used to his being there whenever something came up and they had only to look to him to find the answer. None of them could imagine being alone without him.

They didn't understand many of the things that he had told them about his death and resurrection. When he was crucified they were discouraged and thought all was lost. Sure he had raised others from the dead, but this was the master himself who had died. It was not until he arose and appeared to them that they realized that he had spoken literally of his death and resurrection. He was indeed alive and all of their sorrow turned to joy. Can you imagine how they felt to see one that had died, alive and standing and talking with them?

The apostles and the other believers went forth ready to spread the gospel message. They were not defeated, but were filled not only with the Holy Spirit, but with hope and joy. Persecutions awaited them and there would be many trials to face, but they went forward in faith. Jesus was with them, even if the people could not see him. He saw every trial they faced and every hurt that they endured. When Peter was in prison in Acts 12 we see that God sent an angel to free him. He would go on to preach knowing that he was not alone.

This is what Jesus had been preparing them for, that they might go preaching the gospel and bearing witness of God's grace. They went knowing that they were not preaching of a dead man, but about a living Savior, Jesus, the Son of God. The Lord gave them the power to perform miracles such as healing the sick and casting out unclean spirits. They could do this because Jesus arose from the tomb and lives. He said, "because I live, ye shall live also." They knew that eternal life was theirs because the Lord overcame death and the grave. They had hope, not only in this life, but in the life to come. Jesus had done everything that he had said that he would do.

Think of it, the same promise is ours today. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever just as **Hebrews 13:8** tells us. We should be filled with joy even in the midst of trials, knowing that our Lord still lives and still keeps

his word and his people. Now some may say, "But God didn't deliver all of his people, some died." That is true, James, the brother of John was killed by Herod. When it says with the sword, it usually means that the person was beheaded. Why did God allow James to die, but delivered Peter? Only God knows the answer to that and he hasn't seen fit to tell us. While I don't know the answer to that I do know that James may have died physically, but lives in the spirit. **John 11:25-26** "Jesus said unto her; I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" James believed this and the other apostles and believers did too. They knew as Paul did, when he said, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." **2 Cor 5:8.** They didn't just say this, but the life that they lived showed that they truly believed it and trusted in the Lord.

They knew that Jesus would never let them down, or fail to watch over them. At times they were beaten, put in prison, wore chains, and some were even killed. Their faith was strong enough in the Lord that they faced these things with boldness and even joy. The apostles were beaten and threatened before they were released. "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." **Acts 5:41.**

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317 **Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI**

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

A-BRIDE FOR ISAAC
ELIEZER, ABRAHAM'S STEWARD, HAVING REACHED THE LAND OF HIS MASTER'S BIRTH, THE LAND OF THE CHALDEES, IS NOW READY TO SEEK A WIFE FOR ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S SON....

...IT HAS BEEN A LONG, DRY, JOURNEY AND WATER IS THE FIRST CONCERN, FOR BOTH MAN AND BEAST...

YONDER IS THE TOWN WELL!

...THE CARAVAN HALTS AT THE WELL OUTSIDE OF THE CITY OF NAHOR....

O LORD, I AWAIT AT THE WELL... SOON, MAIDENS OF THE CITY WILL COME TO DRAW WATER... LET IT BE A SIGN THAT THE DAMSEL WHO GIVES ME WATER, AND MY CAMELS, ALSO, BE THE ONE THOU HAST ALREADY APPOINTED AS ISAAC'S WIFE!

ELIEZER AND HIS PARTY WAIT WITH PATIENCE FOR THE WOMEN TO COME AND DRAW THE EVENING WATER, FOR IT IS STRICT ETIQUETTE OF THESE ANCIENT DAYS THAT A STRANGER NEVER TAKES WATER FROM A WELL THAT DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM, BUT WAITS UNTIL IT IS OFFERED TO HIM AND HIS ANIMALS!

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