

Looking for the Living Among the Dead  
(Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18)

On the first day of weeks (first Sabbath of seven Sabbaths after Passover- Pentecost) very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They went in but did not find the body of the Lord YAHSHUA. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. **“Why are you looking for the living among the dead”** (Luke 1-6)? The women’s action required an answer in view of what YAHSHUA had told them before He died. He said, “The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day” (vs.7). Why was everybody looking for Him in a tomb? Was the question asked by the angels. The stress of the hour focused on His death, and not in His resurrection in the minds of the women, who had no answer to give, except that they had forgotten the words pertaining to the resurrection of their Lord. When He had not been found in the tomb, sorrow and grief took over their hearts, as it was in the case of Mary Magdalene. She stood outside facing the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb, when she saw two angels in white sitting there, who asked her the question, “Woman, why are you crying”? Turning around, she saw YAHSHUA, Who asked the questions, “Why are you crying”? And Who is it you are looking for? She answered, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have put Him” (John 20:11- 18). This is a sad picture in two forms: first, the frustration YAHSHUA must have felt, knowing their hearts, veiled from seeing the truth to believe Him; and second, the unbelief and lack of understanding of the disciples, even His close friends, as in the case of Thomas, who had to touch his scarred hands and feet to believe Him; they went to the tomb and not to Galilee, as they were told to wait for Him there.

Today, many carry Him still hanging on the cross in their golden necklaces, a Savior powerless to save them. He, the Living, is no longer among the dead. Why are we persisting in looking for Him among the dead? What power is there in a dead person? YAHSHUA said, I am the resurrection and the life; how would He be found dead passed the third day when the Psalmist prophesized that YAHWEH was not going to allow his anointed One to see decay? He is the resurrection and He is life; death has no hold on Him to keep Him in decay. Paul said, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is mere delusion and you are still in your sins; the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead, and He became the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (I Cor. 15:13-18). Why then do we continue to look for Him among the dead ones, whose bodies suffered decay? For us to know Him and the power of His resurrection we must change the direction in which we are looking for Him by the exercise of faith and belief that He is life; He is the resurrection; He will not be found anywhere else. Doubt and disbelief will always lead us to the dead ones, and that’s not where He is, as the women of His days found out. The angels told them, “He is not here; He is risen”! Looking for the Living among the dead brings us only frustration and hopelessness; The Prodigal Son looked for life among the dead of the world and end up in the pigs’ pen; it was not until he came to his senses of repentance and humbleness that he found the Living among the living and was forgiven. When King David was taken by the lust of the eyes, he found himself in the wrong place looking for

the Living among the dead; it was not until he repented and turned to YAHWEH for forgiveness that he found Him – the Living among the living ones. He said in Psalm fifty-one, “Against You, You only, have I sinned and done that which is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and faultless in Your judgment; purify me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow; make me to hear joy and gladness and be satisfied; let the bones which You have broken rejoice; create in me a clean heart, O YAHWEH, and renew a right spirit within me. In his pursuit to look for the Living among the living, David was forgiven and his fellowship was restored with YAHWEH.

Knowing what is right and not doing it, it is a form of looking for the Living among the dead in the stubbornness of the heart; it is to ignore the right path and embrace the wrong to satisfy our selfish desires. The Word says, Look to Him, and be saved! That’s the direction to life, blessings and to the resurrection power.

We, just like those of YAHSUA’S day, are guilty of looking for Him among the dead; we are guided by doubt and disbelief and we live a life of constant disappointment. Paul, before his conversion, was found looking for the Living among the dead, with tremendous zeal for the Law until the Light of YAHSUA shone at him and he changed the direction of his pursuit; he said, “I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege of **knowing YAHSUA MESSIAH my Lord** and of **progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him**; for His sake I lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish, in order that I may win Christ and that I may be found and known as in Him, not having any righteousness that can be called my own, based on my obedience to the Law’s demands, but possessing that [genuine righteousness] that comes through faith in Christ, the right standing with YAHWEH, which comes from YAHWEH by faith; **[for my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed to His death** (Phil. 3: 8-10). This summarizes the way we must follow in pursuit to look for YAHSUA, our Living Savior; He is not among the dead, He is risen! We must desire to **know** Him deeply with love that flows from our gratitude for the gift of His salvation – His life offered for us; with desire to suffer for Him in faith and in righteousness that comes from Him. He is the resurrection, He is life; He is the way to the Father; He is the truth that sets us free from the bondage of sin; He is life eternal, apart from Him there is no other that can save us. He is alive forever more and we will be also in the resurrection, when He will give us eternal life with Him forever! **“HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS ALIVE”!**

**THINK ABOUT IT!**