

March 24, 2008

And He appeared to me also!

Paul writing to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:3-10) said: 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them —yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me".

Paul was not the 'last' that Jesus appeared to; he was only expressing his unworthiness; his undeservedness, in having the "Damascus" experience; in having Jesus appear to him personally, after what he had done to Me and to My church. For, even today, have you not heard testimonies of Jesus appearing even to people who had never heard of Him, or who doubted His reality? That personal encounter was unmistakable evidence to Paul of Jesus' resurrection; of the Truth of the Gospel. Paul had a personal witness of the reality of Jesus and of the Faith. And hence, he was totally sold out to the heavenly vision and calling He received in that encounter.

If you do not have a personal experience of Jesus appearing to you, you can have it. And whatever your condition, you may not be any less deserving than Paul. It is not by works/merit or self-righteousness; it is by FAITH. Those who believe, hunger and thirst after Me will be satisfied; those who seek Me with all their heart shall find Me.

What happened at "Easter" were not just "The Passion of the Christ" (false accusation, suffering, sacrifice, death, burial) and the Resurrection. There was the "appearing", also. Blessed are those who have not seen Him yet believe. But any who desires a personal encounter with Jesus desires a God-thing. If you are thirsty for that personal encounter with Jesus that will change your life forever, that will birth in you a calling and a heavenly vision; that will infuse in you a passion even unto death for the cause of My Kingdom, for the spread of My love to all the world, you will see Jesus. Then you can confidently anchor your faith and calling/ministry; and share the exhilarating experience of Thomas' worship: 'My Lord and My God'; and Paul's testimony: "and He appeared to me, also".

Says the King, to His Kid, today

Prophetic Word: This morning I "saw" the picture of my younger brother who died not long ago, smiling broadly. And I heard: 'it is alright; the spirit of grief is broken; though weeping endures for the night, joy comes in the morning'. For someone reading this who has been held captive by the spirit of grief, sorrow, sadness or hopelessness due to some LOSS, receive the word of the Lord, and be delivered today, in Jesus' name. It's Easter, it's Resurrection morning, and your joy and hope are restored; enter into a new season of comfort, joy and hope, in Jesus' name!

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