

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

“WITNESSES.” “I have seen the Lord.” (John 20:18). “And we are WITNESSES to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:32). In court proceedings, *WITNESSES* take an oath *“to tell the truth and nothing but the truth”* usually with a hand on a Bible and invoking God’s name. It is an interesting observation how lawyers construct their cases and call expert *WITNESSES* to get favorable results for their side.

We just celebrated Easter Day AND we are *WITNESSES (making the case)* that Resurrection continues today. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb expecting to find a body to perform the burial ritual by anointing Jesus’ dead body with spices. Speaking with the “supposed” gardener Mary demanded to know where he had taken the body so that *“I will take him away.” (vs. 15).* It was when Jesus said to her, *“Mary!”* she recognized Jesus and became one of the first *WITNESSES* to the resurrection.

In the story from Acts 5, some of the apostles were before the religious council who were trying to get the apostles to be quiet about Jesus. The council feared the Romans and feared the *“Jesus Movement”* as a threat to Roman authority AND their authority. Jesus’ followers had loyalty to Jesus and not to the Romans or the religious council. Peace was tenuous with the Romans and any threat could bring death upon those who opposed their authority. All the apostles were trying to do was *WITNESS (make the case)* for resurrection, hope and peace they had claimed in Jesus.

Resurrection is more than a date on the calendar and is our experience, too. We have seen the Lord in each other and the world as we *WITNESS* resurrection in moments of healings of our minds, bodies and spirits. We are *WITNESSES* to resurrection when broken relationships find reconciliation, when wars find peace, when prejudices become respect and extravagant welcome. Miracles happen again and again as we experience God’s transforming resurrection power in the world. Resurrection changes you, me and us as we *WITNESS* and experience God’s mighty acts of grace, forgiveness, hope and love. *“I/you/we have seen the Lord”* all around us and in us. *“Christ is risen! Christ is risen INDEED!”*

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