

WHY SEARCH FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?

Faith in Jesus risen by the Father, did not arise naturally and spontaneously in the disciples' hearts. Before they met Him, full of life, the evangelists speak about their disorientation, searching around the grave, and their doubts and uncertainties.

Mary of Magdala is perhaps the best reference to know what happened to all of them. According to John, she was looking for the crucified *while still dark*. Obviously, she went *to the tomb*. She hadn't learned yet that death had been conquered. The empty sepulchre made her feel sad and at a loss. Without Jesus, she didn't know where to go.

The other evangelists write about an old tradition that had a group of holy women searching for Him. They couldn't forget the Master who had welcomed them as disciples: their love and gratitude lead them to the grave. They did not find Him, but they listened to the guide who tells them where they could search for Him: "*Why are you looking for the living one among the dead? He is not here. He has risen.*"

Faith in the Risen Christ does not happen with us spontaneously, or because we were told by teachers or catechists at school or church. To really believe in the resurrection of Jesus, we have to make our own search. We must know Him, love Him passionately and search for Him with all our strength - but not among the dead. He is Life itself and must be searched among the living.

If we want to be with the Risen Christ, full of life and creative ideas, we will find Him, not among dead relics, like rituals and ancient traditions, but among the living spirit of Jesus' disciples who practice the faith, love and social compassion shown by Jesus.

We will not find the living Jesus among divided Christians or followers that claim sterile doctrines, away from the love of Christ and passion for the Gospel. Instead, we must build communities that put Christ at the centre, because they know that "*where two or three are gathered in His name, He will be there in the midst of them.*"

The Living one will not be found in a Faith that is lifeless and just routine and tradition, a result of centuries of folklore or mystery. We must search for a living Jesus and a new identification with his project. Any Jesus that appears dead or silent, that does not excite or challenge us, that does not move our hearts and makes us free, is a "*dead Jesus*". He is not the living Jesus, who was risen by the Father. He is not the living one, the one who will give us Life.

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