

Jesus himself. She supposed him to be the gardener. We are reminded of the mistake which the people of Nazareth made when they could see in Jesus nothing more than the carpenter's son whose family they all knew. It is easy to mistake Jesus for somebody else than he really is. Some look at him, and they see nothing more in him than a good man and a wise teacher who lived long ago in Palestine. And so far as they go, they are right. The trouble is that they do not go far enough. They miss the deep significance of him who came to be the complete revelation of the Father.

5. Jesus can be depended upon to be near us with his help when we need him the most. Peter and John seem to have been convinced

by the sight of the empty tomb. But Mary was not. She still stood there weeping. She needed the assurance of Jesus himself. And he was there to give her that assurance. And many a needless burden do we carry because we forget to count upon the readiness of the Saviour to help. We are like the boy who was carrying a heavy load. A kindly passer-by offered him a drive. But when he climbed up on the waggon, he continued to hold the load on his knee. "Why don't you set it down?" the driver asked. "Oh," said the boy, "it is not fair to ask you to carry me and my load too." Some of us seem to act in much the same way with God. We pretend to carry our burdens to him, and then continue to hold them ourselves.

### THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

#### For Teachers of Bible Classes

Begin by pointing out that the death of Jesus seemed to his disciples the final blow at all the hopes which they had cherished for a new kingdom of truth. Loyalty to Jesus kept some of them close to the sepulchre, but it was that loyalty which is maintained by the memory of a golden past. Suddenly their sorrow was changed into joy as they became convinced by undeniable evidences that Jesus was living. Raise the question if we can explain the new enthusiasm which marked the members of the Christian community, the conviction and boldness of their conduct, except on the basis of their belief that Jesus had risen from the dead. In teaching bring out the following points:

1. *The resurrection story implies that we now live in the age of the living Jesus.* Ought we to have a certain belief in the resurrection of Jesus through our own experience, or is our belief in the fact dependent upon the records wholly? What evidences have we to-day that Jesus is living? What do we understand by "living?" Could Christianity have become a religion apart from the resurrection? Was Jesus, then, only a teacher or was something more involved in his work?

2. *The risen Lord is the same Jesus.* The love of Jesus for his own abides unchanged. (Read Matt. 28:10.) Guide the discussion along the following lines: The spiritual body of Jesus was different from his physical body. His disciples did not immediately recognize him. But his accents were as full of tenderness as before. The utterance of the word "Mary" is sufficient to convince Mary that none other than the master was before her. Was it not love that impels him to visit his own in the familiar scenes of Galilee, or to come into their midst in the Upper Room? And so he removed their hopeless grief (see Luke 24:25, 26). Likewise he committed to them the task for which he had been equipping them. (See John 20:21; Acts 1:8.) The disciples knew the exalted Lord through their acquaintance with the Jesus of history.

3. *Jesus the firstfruits of them that sleep* (see 1 Cor. 15:20). The Easter message ought not to be overlooked. Paul builds his faith in immortality on the resurrection. Emphasize the truth that God's raising Jesus from the dead is the pledge that he will also bring from the grave those who believe in Jesus.

#### For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Tell the class about Jean Blewett's beautiful poem, *As It Began to Dawn*, in which she pictures the women, with hearts full of love but also full of sorrow, in the grey dawn of that first Easter morning, on their way to