

(Announcement regarding feed for truck drivers by Didden's Greenhouse)

This morning I would like to look at Mat. 28:16-20 (reading text)

I thought these last few verses of Mat. 28 were appropriation for us as our semester draws to a close. We look ahead to a turning point for most of you and for most of us. The activities are going to change, which comes in most cases at the beginning of the summer. This passage describes one of the greatest turning points that ever occurs in anyone's life. As we think of the disciples going with Jesus for about 3 years, listening to him, speaking to him, hearing his wonderful teachings, considering the things He was discussing with them, it must have seemed to them that this would keep on and on and on.

It was a terrible shock to them when He was taken and crucified. But that particular break, or change in their lives was soon remedied because in a very short time he was raised from the dead. So for the next 40 days they kept seeing Him, frequently and he taught them the things of the kingdom. They must have said, How wonderful were these 3 years as we were listening to His teachings. We thought nothing on earth could be better than what we experienced then. But this is better yet.

We were looking forward to the cross then. We were considering what was going to happen. We weren't understanding it He told us about it but we just didn't realize what it meant. It was difficult for us to understand. We learned so much, and yet so much was unclear to us.

But they said, Now he has come back and been with us here and he's been talking to us and explaining the mysteries of the kingdom of God and everything is so much clearer. Now we realize why he died. We realize that He died in our behalf on the cross, that he bore our sins there. And that our salvation which was looked forward to by the sacrifices, our salvation that was predicted in so many places in the OT, that all of this has been fulfilled in His crucifixion and His resurrection. These last 40 days have been even more wonderful than the three years before.

We thought nothing could be better than that, but here is something even yet better yet. So in their experience, the terrible anguish of seeing him crucified and the tremendous excitement of seeing him raised from the dead, while they were an incident that overtopped anything else they had ever experienced or ever would experience, yet in a way they were like incidents in the course of a continuous period of ~~int~~ intercourse with Him and of learning from Him and of growing in their understanding of what He was giving them. Now there comes a greater break in their personal experience.