

“Why do you stand here looking up into the sky....”

In my spare time there are quite a few things that I enjoy doing. Retirement is good and I have a lot of spare time. There are some days that I do not have enough time in the day and totally enjoy all that I do.

One of the many things that I do enjoy is flying radio control model airplanes, especially gliders. You have heard the old saying... ” *the difference between men and boys is the price of their toys.* ” A good thing about this pastime is that I can have a lot of fun with a small investment of money. The same applies to what you enjoy doing. We all decide what the investment will be for what we enjoy. Model sailplanes are especially challenging. One must find thermals that enable the sailplanes to stay up and fly higher as well as longer. Most of the time I do not succeed in staying up in the air long but it is fun trying. Occasionally something good happens up there in the sky with the air and you are happy. You have put a timer on your flight and it has been over fourteen minutes without any power assistance on that model. That is an above average time for me. On another occasion I was having a good time with a glider and all of a sudden this large bird flew over and I was absolutely amazed. This bird was a bald eagle and no matter what happened that day the sight of that bird was just breathtaking. This added so much to the day it was impossible to have a bad flight after that. A blue sky, white clouds, wind blowing and with a glider in hand I have an enjoyable time. When the weather becomes more pleasant outside and you have a few minutes for yourself, take advantage of this beauty above your head. For sure, “the sky is the limit”. It also gives you some time to think. You did it when you were younger and remember those funny looking animals you thought the clouds looked like? I know. They did look like animals and our imagination seemed to soar. Take some time to experience that again.

This past month of March I found myself once again in Israel with a group of people from our church. It was an absolutely wonderful time with all that we were able to see and do. On one particular day we found ourselves walking on a pathway in the Kidron Valley. On one side was the Mount of Olives. On the other side of us was a large series of steps that led to the old city of Jerusalem. This would be the eastern wall of the old city. This would be the wall with the sealed eastern gate. I remember taking the time to look all around me and then I looked up and remembered a different time with different people. The people were the disciples of Jesus. They had experienced many things while being with this Jesus but this day when I looked up into the sky and realized where I was I had a simple thought about those men. With everything that the disciples had experienced this must have been one of those absolutely perfect days for them. Their Lord was with them and was about to depart. He opened their minds so that the scriptures could be understood by each of them and then.....

“This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24: 46-49)

Can you imagine the joy of each of these men? Their minds were opened and their responsibilities were clear. Our responsibilities are clear. Re-read the scriptures above...*will be preached.....* Talk to a neighbor, a friend and let them know of your excitement just as these disciples were excited. It is all about being involved ... people, church, community.

“They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1: 10-11)

I can only imagine how beautiful that sky was on that day. I can only imagine how beautiful that sky will be throughout this world on that day spoken about in Acts. Re-read the scripture above...*will come back in the same way* And there I stood on a pathway in the Kidron Valley with the Mount of Olives on one side and the Eastern Gate of Old Jerusalem on the other side looking up into the sky and thinking. What a beautiful sky for me it was on that day and what a beautiful sky it will be on the day of His return.

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