

## **“They took note that these men had been with Jesus....”**

Have you ever known someone who has met a very distinguished, well-known, extremely important person? Everyone recognizes this person as important. It might have been a long time ago and this person was in a large crowd and saw the President of the United States from a distance. It might have been a time when someone spoke and your friend was able to attend the speech. For them it was a lifetime experience. Whatever the situation, it had a lasting impression on your friend and because it affected your friend it also affected you. Remembering that experience made it seem as if it happened only yesterday. Even you remember this over and over again and you too share in the excitement for your friend. Or, it just might have been a meeting that you arranged by buying a book. The book allows you to acquaint yourself with a person you have always admired. It might be a biography or a wonderful story about this person's life. Such is the case for me right now. I am currently reading “Bonhoeffer” by Eric Metaxas. Wonderful man. Exciting life. A man who finally came to an understanding of what it is all about. Prior to this I had an opportunity to meet Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur. He is the author of “The Battle for Jerusalem.” As I let my memory run wild I am trying to think of that personal contact I have had with a distinguished, well-known, extremely important person. I can think of no one at this time. But I do think of a lot of people who have had an impact on my life. These are people who go about their day doing the things they do to make a living but they make a contribution by being there for you when you are in need. Sounds like family doesn't it? Or maybe a person's extended family at work, at church, or in the neighborhood? The important thing is that they stand out in a person's life. Yes, ordinary and hard working people who care.

Such was the case with two men I am acquainted with and maybe you are as well. They were ordinary, everyday men who went about doing what they did to make a living but one day things changed for them. Please understand that this change was a choice that they could take or leave. They accepted the challenge and their lives changed forever. Just ordinary men that separated themselves by making a choice one day. That was the day they met Jesus and he offered them a choice. “*Come follow me*”. We know the choice they made and their lives changed forever. After the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus these men and others continued in what they were instructed to do.

***“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit....”*** (NIV...\_Matthew 28:19)

They told others about Jesus. They shared the good news of his grace, mercy and love. These were men of compassion, courage and very committed. As they traveled and spread the good news with others.....

***“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”*** (Acts 4:13)

Are these not the characteristics that we need throughout our daily lives? Should we be striving to be more compassionate, more courageous and more committed? Are we not like Peter and John? Have we not been with Jesus as well?

I recently read a title to an article on the internet. The title said it all. "Jesus isn't broke, let's follow him."

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