

May 2021 Grand Prelates Reflection

Sir Knights;

Forty days after the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, another event was set to transpire in his life. Forty days is an interesting time period in the Bible. Does it mean “exactly” forty days? That is an excellent question. For many, it does. Still, many have interpreted it to simply mean a long period of time. Did it rain exactly forty days? Did Moses wander for exactly forty years? Finally, one might ask if it really matters. In either case, it is a long period of time.

The event that was set to transpire was the Ascension of our Lord to his Heavenly Father. It would be the culmination of all that happened in the life of our Lord. He was returning to his Father where, as we know, he would find a seat on the right hand side of God.

Should you ever have the opportunity to travel to Jerusalem, guides might take you to the church of the Ascension. Guides will tell you that there is an impression in the rock that was left by Jesus as he ascended into heaven. Like many things, whether or not that is believed is left up to the visitor. From a historical point of view, it was not named the ascension site until the 4th century.

Throughout Jesus’ ministry, he always seemed to be on the move. Everything that he did seemed to have a purpose. To be sure, the Gospels do not give us a play by play of his entire life. He was sure to have down time and we know that he did rest. Still, there is enough in the Gospels to let us know that his ministry was pretty busy.

Jesus always seemed to be moving forward. There were many times, in the Gospels, when Jesus encountered things that angered him, hurt him or those around him and pushed him to the limit. That did not stop him. Even when our Lord went to Jerusalem, he continued to teach and think about others. With all that he endured on the cross, he thought about others as he was dying. Following the Resurrection, he continued to be the Rabbi; the Teacher.

Though we might not have to face what Jesus did, there are times when we are tested. We might find ourselves in situations where we are angered or hurt. It might cause us to wonder about what we are doing and it might cause us to want to quit. To be sure, the pandemic has tested all of our limits.

As Christians and as Knights Templar, we can be challenged by all that faces us in life. The challenge then is our response to what the world offers us. Do we quit or do we trust that God will provide a path for us to meet those challenges? When we are down, let us not quit. When the world seems to be full of hate, let us then choose to rise up and offer them the Love of our Savior who poured out his love for us on the cross.

God has provided us a path to follow. It might be a rugged path. Take the path one step at a time and know that He is always with you. Happy Ascension!

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