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TELL HIS DISCIPLES AND PETER

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?’ Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him,

just as He told you,’” Mark 16:1-7. What an amazing sight and surprising find! To not only find the stone rolled away revealing an empty tomb, but to be told by the angel that the crucified Jesus was alive again! As all of this new exciting information washed over them and the reality of this new information set in, I can imagine the urge to want to relay this incredible news to others. The angel gave them instructions as to who to go and tell and the disciples, naturally, are the first in mind to encourage and lift them up with this great news. What is interesting is the angel then singles out Peter as one they must tell this great news to as well. “But go, tell His disciples *and Peter.*” The fact that the angel specifically mentions to tell Peter after already mentioning the disciples clues

us in on the extent of guilt and effect it had on Peter after he denied Jesus three times. Peter felt unworthy to be included as a disciple. He no doubt felt because he had disowned Jesus that he deserved to be disowned by Jesus. The last interaction Peter had with His master was the very night he was denying Him and made eye contact with the Lord who witnessed the whole thing, sending Peter into deep bitter cries of guilt and remorse. "The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, 'Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly," Luke 22:61-62. And yet despite Peter's overwhelming guilt, the angel reminds the women to specifically go to Peter to tell him the great news of Jesus' resurrection. What a great comfort it would be to all the disciples to know Jesus was alive, but especially to Peter, to know the angel specifically wanted to make sure he received this news to be reassured of the Lord's mercy and forgiveness towards him. Jesus had already indicated that He was mercifully praying for Peter who He knew would deny Him and reassures him that it

will not affect the Lord's choosing him with the other Apostles. "'Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you; when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers,'" Luke 22:31-32. What a wonderful statement of reassurance to one broken by their failure and sin. This needed word of comfort and mercy, "But go, tell His disciples *and Peter*." It reveals how lowly and discouraged we may potentially feel when we have become guilty of sin and remorse and guilt overwhelms us. Paul later warned how easily those feelings could overtake someone who had come to terms with their own guilt and seriousness of sin even after repenting of it. "On the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him...so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes," 2 Cor. 2:7-8. Rather than conveying such thoughts as, "How could you do such a thing??" or, "What were you thinking? I thought someone

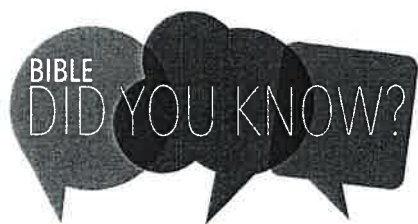
like you should have known better??" we have been told to be mindful of the delicate state a penitent, repentant sinner is in and reassure them of their place amongst the brethren. This is precisely what the angel is indicating Peter is in need of by specifically mentioning the need to tell him of Jesus' resurrection.

Later, Jesus, Himself, even goes out of His way to reassure Peter He has not stripped him of his role as Apostle or evangelist as a result of his sin, but is still counting on him to fulfill his work in teaching and encouraging others. "So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Tend My lambs,'" Jn. 21:15. What a blessing to be reassured that the power of God's love and mercy is real when we most desperately need it, but also a reminder for us to make sure we communicate that effectively and strongly towards those nursing the wounds of their sin in returning to the Lord. How comforting it had to be for Peter to hear of the great news of the resurrection of Jesus, to know he was included along with the rest of the disciples and to

encouraged by the words of the women stating that the angel specifically mentioned him by name making sure he was sure to receive this good news.

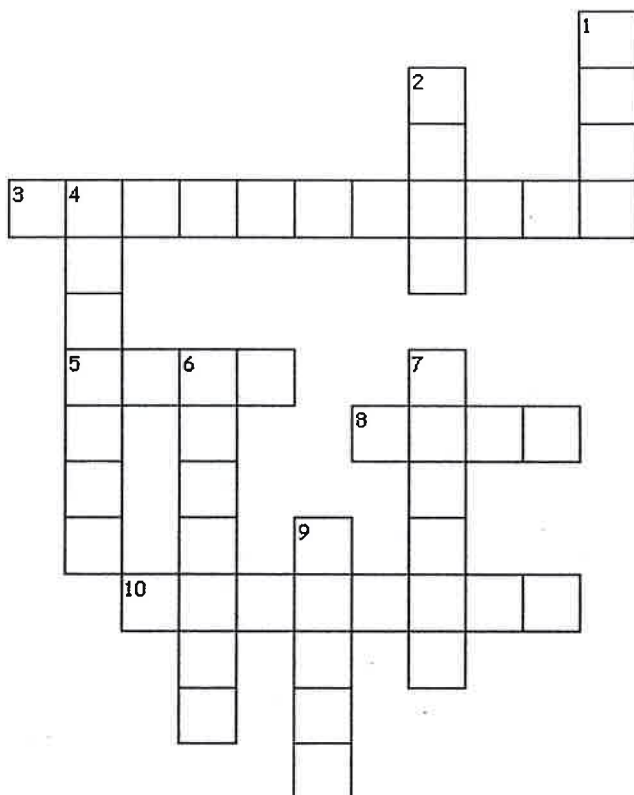
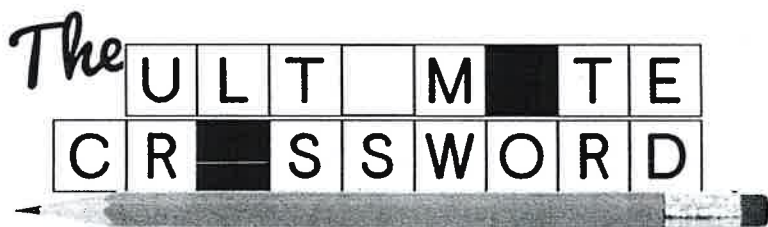
What a great comforting act to practice ourselves when the time comes to help another make their way back to the fold after the remorse and repentant guilt sets in and potentially overwhelms them to necessitate reassuring them all is right between them and the Lord.

- Daniel Ruegg



"When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them."

Deut. 4:30-31



ACROSS

3. Judas began looking for a good _____ to betray Jesus. (Mt. 26:16)
5. Jesus said all the disciples would _____ away because of Him. (Mt. 26:31)
8. Jesus said the spirit is willing but the flesh is _____ (Mt. 26:41)
10. Jesus said to drink from the cup for it was His blood of the _____. (Mt. 26:28)

DOWN

1. Taking bread, Jesus said, "Take, eat, this is My _____ (Mt. 26:26)
2. Jesus said Peter would _____ Him three times. (Mt. 26:34)
4. A woman poured very costly _____ on Jesus' head. (Mt. 26:6-7)
6. Jesus said He could call twelve _____ of angels to save Him. (Mt. 26:53)
7. At the table, Jesus said one would _____ Him. (Mt. 26:20-21)
9. In the garden, Jesus said he was grieved to the point of _____. (Mt. 26:38)