

Was or Is?

Our trip to Jerusalem was amazing. To be in the land where Jesus walked, to visit the tomb where Jesus layed, to touch the cave where he was born, to ride a camel...these were all amazing. Yet I felt like one thing was missing.

Don't get me wrong, I highly recommend Jerusalem to anyone. When I pray the rosary now I can picture every scene, when I read the bible I know where most of the locations are...this is a trip I will remember forever but even still I felt like something was missing.

I couldn't put my finger on it before but I think this analogy will explain it better.

Imagine if I had a bride who had passed away. And one day in remembrance of her I decide to walk to all the places where she had walked: the house where she lived, the places she had eaten. It would give me comfort and solace, it would give me greater insight into her life and joy at the memories we had shared...yet one thing would be missing: her.

In my heart of hearts I would recognize that I don't just want to be where she WAS, I want to be where she IS. My true longing is not for the places she has been but for her presence itself.

As beautiful as all the scenery and holy sites and experiences are, there is something greater and that is our Lord himself who walked those lands. This trip has given me a greater appreciation of the mass because it is here where we don't just recall a memory or perform empty symbols: through the ministry of the priest the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary is made present again.

Catalina Rivas from Bolivia gave a testimony about her experience at mass in which Jesus and Mary showed her the true spiritual realities happening at each moment of the liturgy.

The Archbishop said the words of the Consecration of the wine and...lightning appeared from the heavens and in the background. The walls and ceiling of the church had disappeared. All was dark, but for that brilliant light from the Altar.

Suddenly, suspended in the air, I saw Jesus crucified. I saw Him from the head to the lower part of the chest. The cross beam of the Cross was sustained by some large, strong hands. From within this resplendent light, a small light, like a very brilliant, very small dove, came forth and flew swiftly all over the Church. It came to rest on the left shoulder of the Archbishop, who continued to appear as Jesus because I could distinguish His long hair, His luminous wounds, and His large body, but I could not see His Face.

*At that moment, the Virgin Mary said: **“This is the miracle of miracles. I have said to you before that the Lord is not constrained by time and space. At the moment of the Consecration, all the assembly is taken to the foot of Calvary, at the instant of the crucifixion of Jesus.”***

The single sacrifice of Christ which was done two millennia ago will now be made present or as the Catechism teaches: The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are *one single sacrifice*: “The victim is one and the same: the same now offers through the ministry of priests, who then offered himself on the cross

Although some of us will get a chance to visit the Holy Land, many of us will not be able to for various reasons, but despite not being able to go to the Holy Land, despite not being able to go to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and going up to Calvary where Jesus was crucified and died, we have the opportunity in a few moments and each and every day to be not where he WAS but where he IS.