

## September 29

**Luke 24:45-49 (NIV)** <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “**This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,** <sup>47</sup> **and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** <sup>48</sup> **You are witnesses of these things.** <sup>49</sup> **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.”**

Many of us recognize the names: Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman, and Maggie Nichols. Olympic gymnasts who captured medals and the hearts of millions. Along with hundreds of others, they are also the victims of sexual abuse at the hands of Larry Nassar, the Olympic gymnastics’ doctor. They recently testified before Congress that this abuse was first reported in 2015 to Olympic officials, to trainers, and to the FBI. The women were assured that the matter was under investigation and were told to remain quiet so as not to taint the investigation. Over a year later, they learned that nothing was done. Those who were witnesses, including the FBI, refused to come forward and act. As a result, over 100 other young gymnasts were abused by Nassar.

It is true, that none of the officials saw or experienced first-hand the abuse. Nevertheless, they knew the truth but chose to remain silent. While they will not be charged with any crimes themselves, their silence in not testifying to the truth speaks loudly. It is hard to listen to this story and not feel indignant and troubled. Certainly, we would have come forward, wouldn’t we? When we read Jesus’ words, we are reminded that we are witnesses of one of the most amazing truths to affect mankind. True, Jesus, speaking to His disciples who saw with their own eyes His resurrection, tells them they are witnesses. He also said that blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29). That includes all of us who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior. As such, we are the witnesses He is sending into the world. Are we going to remain silent like those about whom we just read? Are we going to bury the truth to keep ourselves comfortable while others are being led into slavery? We have not seen with our eyes the risen Lord, but we have been filled with the Holy Spirit Who reveals the truth us. Are we going to witness to others about the risen Christ Who alone can save, or do we remain silent and hope someone else will witness?