

**"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ"**

**John 20:10-29**

**Introduction:** Today as we come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ we are going to step into the Gospel of John for the message.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the greatest event in the history of the world. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ are recorded in every one of the Gospels. The Bible tells us there are many infallible proofs that Jesus Christ did rise from the dead.

**Acts 1:3**

*<sup>3</sup>To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

One of the proofs of Jesus' resurrection was all the eye witnesses which He appeared to after His resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

*<sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

*<sup>4</sup>And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

*<sup>5</sup>And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

*<sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

*<sup>7</sup>After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.*

*<sup>8</sup>And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

Let me give you something interesting to think about: Jesus only appeared to those who were saved. He never presented Himself to the religious leaders or any of the unsaved people. Why did He only appear to His own? Let me suggest 2 reasons for this:

1. He appeared to His own because it would be His own who would need the encouragement for they would be the ones who would carry the Gospel forward and face great persecution.
2. The reason Jesus did not appear to the unsaved was because it would have not convinced them to believe.

Let me remind you of the words of the rich man who died and went to hell and in hell he could see into Paradise where he saw Abraham and the beggar who had also died. He then begged for Abraham to send the saved beggar back to his family. Notice the conversation:

**Luke 16:27-31**

*<sup>27</sup> Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:*

*<sup>28</sup> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

*<sup>29</sup> Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*

*<sup>30</sup> And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*

*<sup>31</sup> And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

Now let us get back to our message. So, Jesus appeared to more than 500 believers after His resurrection NOW LISTEN TO WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY, here in the Gospel of John we find three appearances of our Lord after His resurrection. The question which came into my mind when I started to read this was, "Why did John choose to record these 3 appearances?" He had over 500 to pick from but he picks the 3 we find here in verses 11-29.

It is my desire to show you why John recorded these 3 appearances. Each of those whom He appeared to were facing different feelings of emotion in their lives.

- a. The compassion of our Savior.
- b. The faithfulness of our Savior.

**I. The Appearance to Mary**

**"Jesus cares about our sorrow."**

**Notice John 20:10-12**

Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. The word gives the idea that she was sobbing almost uncontrollably. The sorrow is so great that when she sees the angels they do not even surprise her. Nothing else matters to her at this time. In her mind someone has stolen the body of Jesus. In her mind it was the greatest tragedy in the world that they crucified Him but to make it even worse they have now stolen away the body of Jesus.

**Notice John 20:13**

Notice that she did not refer to Jesus as THE Lord but He was HER Lord. In her mind Jesus was dead but her love had not died. Mary had a very deep love for Her Lord and it was manifest in her sorrow when she believed Him to be dead and now His body stolen.

**Notice John 20:14-15**

There are several points here that I want you to see:

**a. Jesus met her in the midst of her sorrow.**

Jesus would meet with many other people after His resurrection but the meeting with Mary was very important. She was heartbroken. Her hopes and dreams had been shattered and here she was completely consumed in her sorrow and Jesus comes to give her hope and comfort.

**Application:** This is the Truth that John wants us to see. We have a Savior that cares when we are hurting and when our hopes and our dreams have been shattered.

**Psalm 34:18**

*<sup>18</sup> The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

*<sup>4</sup> Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

*<sup>5</sup> For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*

He is always faithful to comfort us when we fall into times of sorrow.

**b. She did not know who Jesus was at this time.**

This seems odd that she did not know the One she loved so deeply. But let me show you something.

**Mark 16:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*

<sup>10</sup> *And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.*

<sup>11</sup> *And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.*

<sup>12</sup> *After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.*

From this we can see that Jesus appearance was different after His resurrection. That is why Mary did not recognize Her Lord.

**Application:**

Now I believe there is a message in this for us. We often look for Jesus in the midst of the sorrows of life and we cannot seem to find Him. I say that He is there but we often miss Him. He comes in the form of other believers. You see we who are believers are the ambassadors of Christ on this earth. When a fellow believer is in the midst of sorrow God will move His people to be there with them and they are Christ.

**c. She was completely broken because there was a separation between her and her Lord.**

**Application:**

When is the last time you wept because there was a separation between you and Jesus?

**Notice John 20:16-18**

He called her by name because He knew her. It was then that she realized who He was and she held tightly to her Lord.

The point I want you to see is that we have a Savior who cares about our sorrow.

**II. The Appearance to the Disciples**  
**"Jesus cares about our deepest fears."**

**Notice John 20:19**

I want you to notice in this verse that the disciples had locked themselves in the room because of their fear of the Jews. The Jewish authorities had crucified Jesus and they were known as His followers therefore they feared that they also would be put to death.

As they were locked in this room Jesus appeared in the midst of them. On top of the fear they had of the Jews the appearance of Jesus added to their fears.

**Notice John 20:20-21**

It was in the upper room that evening that Jesus calmed their fears and commissioned them to go out into the world. In other words, He was letting them know that they did not need to fear anyone or anything. He was sending them into the world; this was the very One Who just defeated death and the grave. What could the world do to them that Jesus could not overcome?

**Application:**

Maybe in your life right now there is something that has come up that terrifies you. It may be a doctor's report that was totally unexpected or news about a family member. It may be a fear of the future because you just don't know what is going to happen with the circumstances that you are facing. Let me show you something from the Old Testament.

**Exodus 14:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> *But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.*

<sup>10</sup> *And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.*

<sup>11</sup> *And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?*

<sup>12</sup> *Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.*

<sup>13</sup> *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.*

<sup>14</sup> *The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*

**Have you ever been in this situation? Let me remind you that if our Lord can part the Red Sea He can make a way through whatever it is that stands before you.**

Not only do we not need to fear but let me show you something else.

**Notice John 20:22-23**

They were not to fear the opposition in the world and they were to go with confidence. This does not mean they had the authority to forgive sin but it means they had the authority to tell those who received Christ that they were forgiven and those who rejected Christ that they were lost.

**Application:**

Not only does Jesus meet us in our fear but He also gives to us the encouragement to go into the world with the confidence.

**John 14:1-3**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

<sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

### **III. The Appearance to Thomas**

**"Jesus encourages us when we are standing in times of doubt."**

**Notice John 20:24-25**

This helps us to see what we miss when we do not gather together with fellow believers. They can attempt to tell us what we have missed but it is not the same.

**Notice John 20:26-29**

Jesus knew the unbelief of Thomas but yet Jesus still proved Himself to be faithful to Thomas because Thomas belonged to Him.

**2 Timothy 2:13**

*<sup>13</sup> If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

**Application:**

Have you ever been in a situation where you knew the Word of God and you wanted so much to believe but you just did not have the faith? Let me tell you that in those times Jesus will prove Himself faithful to us. **He has promised to provide everything we need to live a Godly life and He will never fail even when we lack faith.**

**Judges 6:36-40**

*<sup>36</sup> And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,*

*<sup>37</sup> Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.*

*<sup>38</sup> And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.*

*<sup>39</sup> And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.*

*<sup>40</sup> And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.*

**Conclusion:**

We have a LIVING Savior that meets us in our:

1. Sorrow
2. Fears
3. Doubts

#### **IV. The Purpose**

##### **Notice John 20:30-31**

Here we see why John wrote this letter. It was for the purpose of presenting Jesus Christ to people as the Son of God and as the Savior of the world. His ultimate purpose was to see people saved.

John has presented these 3 appearances and now he expects a decision from his readers.