

"The Appearances of the Resurrected Savior."

John 20:1-18

Introduction: Today we celebrate the greatest event in the history of the world and that is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that we are justified by His resurrection.

Romans 4:24-25

²⁴ *But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;*

²⁵ *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

It is the resurrection that proves that God the Father accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the payment for our sin debt.

1 John 2:2

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Now, in the book of Acts we are told that Jesus showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs.

Acts 1:3

³ *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:*

Today I want us to look at the appearances of our Lord after His resurrection and the order of those appearances because I believe in the appearances and their order there is encouragement for every person here.

Lessons from the Resurrection Appearances

- **Appearance #1 - Mary Magdalene**
- **Jesus meets us in despair.**

Notice John 20:10-16

Here is the first appearance and it is to a lady and she is a lady that in her mind she had lost her hope. Mary was a woman who was possessed with 7 demons.

Luke 8:2

² *And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,*

Mary had placed all of her hope in Jesus and now He had died and it looked to her as though someone stole His body. At this time in her life, she was without hope. That is when Jesus stepped in and revealed Himself to her. From this meeting on she would never be without hope again.

Application:

I do not know where you are in your life but if you have never trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are in a place with no hope.

Ephesians 2:11-12

¹¹ *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

¹² *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

God wants to give you hope and He comes to you offering this hope throughout your life. But just as Mary did not recognize Jesus at first so in the same way you miss Him when He appears into your life. He will come in the life of another believer, He will come to you during a sermon while you sit in church. He reaches out to you by showing you kindness and meeting your needs. In all of this He is seeking a relationship with you. That is what He desires.

- **Appearance #2 - Women returning from the tomb.**
- **Jesus meets us in service.**

Matthew 28:7-10

⁷ *And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.*

⁸ And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

⁹ And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

¹⁰ Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

These women were commanded by the angels to spread the news to the other disciples of the good news of Jesus' resurrection. As they were walking in obedience Jesus met them and revealed Himself to them. What an encouragement this was to these women.

Application:

After we are saved, we are commanded to serve and to walk in God's will for our lives.

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ And he said unto them, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

As we do this, we can expect that He will reveal Himself to us as He works His power through us. As lives are changed and people are saved, we must remember that it is our risen Lord who is working through our service. We have no power to change lives and we have no power to save anyone. It is our Savior who saves and changes lives with His power.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

John 15:4-5

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Our Lord reveals Himself as we serve as an encouragement to us as we carry out His will. If you are not serving then you are missing great blessings. You are missing the power of the risen Savior in your life.

- **Appearance #3 - Peter**
- **Just meets us in our brokenness.**

Luke 24:33-34

³³ *And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,*

³⁴ *Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.*

We have no information on this meeting but we do know what it was about.

Luke 22:61-62

⁶¹ *And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.*

⁶² *And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.*

Peter had denied the Lord three times and when the cock crowed Peter remembered the words of the Lord and he was broken. The meeting on Resurrection Day was to restore Peter and to give comfort to him. As I said, we do not have the details but we know the results. Peter was restored and went on to be used by the Lord.

- **Appearance #4 - The Emmaus Disciples**
- **Jesus meets us in our confusion.**

Luke 24:13-14, 17-19

¹³ *And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.*

¹⁴ *And they talked together of all these things which had happened.*

¹⁷ *And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?*

¹⁸ *And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?*

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

As these two disciples walked the road they discussed what had happened concerning Jesus and His crucifixion. They believed He was the Messiah but then it all fell apart and He was crucified and buried. Then on top of all that the women came and said He was alive. This did not fit their understanding. They were looking for a King as described by the prophets and they were looking for a Kingdom as described by the prophets. But it did not happen. Jesus then showed up and open their eyes to what the Scriptures said.

Luke 24:25-27

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

²⁶ Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Application:

As we follow our Lord there are going to be times when events happen that leave us completely confused. In some of these situations there is pain involved as we deal with confusing situations. But let us understand that in these times of confusion our Lord draws near to give to us the wisdom, grace, and comfort that we need.

1 Peter 5:10

¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

2 Corinthians 9:8

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

- **Appearance #5 - The 10 Disciples**
- **Jesus meets us in our fear.**

John 20:19-21

¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD.

²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

Application:

Our God cares when we are afraid.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4a

³ Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation

- Appearance #6 - The 11 Disciples
- Jesus meets us in our doubts.

John 20:26-28

²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God.

- Appearance #7 - Seven disciples.
- Jesus meets us in our self-will.

The disciples were given a command by the angel at the tomb.

Matthew 28:7

⁷ And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

John 21:1-4

After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

² *There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.*

³ *Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*

⁴ *But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.*

Conclusion:

We serve a living Savior and He meets us in the situations of life to give to us what we need.