

LESSON 8

JESUS APPEARS AFTER RESURRECTION

Scripture Texts: John 20:19,20, 24-29; John 21:1-14



Following His Resurrection Jesus was not with His disciples constantly as before. His body seemed freed from the limitations of space and matter in ways not described. He appeared and vanished suddenly, passing through closed doors. Yet He was the same loving Jesus as always. The main portion of His work was completed when He arose. He remained forty days to give proof of His Resurrection, to comfort and settle His disciples after the shattering experience of the Crucifixion, and to give final teaching and instructions for the spread of the Gospel. Very important to us are these instructions, for they rest on our lives to carry out. The close of each Gospel Book records them.

The disciples had abundant proof of the Resurrection of Jesus in the many appearances of Him to them. We study some today.

MEMORY VERSE: *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?* *Luke 24:32*

Evening After Resurrection

John 20:19-20 The same day at evening—the day He arose. Luke 24:13-32 tells us of Jesus meeting two disciples earlier in the day on the road to Emmaus. **The doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews**—fear that the recent violence to Jesus might fall on them. They were a marked people. Is not it yet so in our day? **Came Jesus**—the shut doors did not hinder Him. Peace be unto you—the same loving Jesus bringing peace to troubled hearts. They needed His peace, and we need it too. (Luke 24:33-40 tells of the same appearing.) **Shewed . . . his hands and his side**—His wounds proved that it was Jesus. Also, that He had come through death with the same body.

John 20:24-25 Thomas . . . said . . . Except I shall see . . . and put . . . and thrust . . . I will not believe--Thomas had to be shown.

One Week Later

John 20:26-29 After eight days—a little more than a week later. Again Jesus came through shut doors and appeared with the same greeting as before. Thomas was with them this time. **Saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger**—He knew Thomas' unbelief and what he had said. He gave the proof he asked. **Be not faithless, but believing.** He was not pleased with Thomas' doubt. The sin of unbelief locks out all of God's graces. All His stay here Jesus had to urge people to believe. Now at its close, He still has to. We are prone, like Thomas, to doubt unless we see, and sometimes after we see. This grieves God. Faith is that arm by which we reach and take hold of God and His blessings. We must have faith. Jesus sets no limits to the possibilities of faith. Why should we? He said, ". . . all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

Thomas answered . . . My Lord and my God. Immediately his faith took hold in Jesus, and he knew Him as God. **Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed**—this is better than a stubborn spirit of unbelief which will not believe even though it sees. But better yet, is the childlike faith that believes without seeing. Jesus called such **blessed.**

At the Seashore

John 21:1-11 At the sea of Tiberias—same as Galilee. The disciples had gone to Galilee as He had said (Matthew 28:10). Seven are together. **Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing**—confused and uncertain, he turned to his old life. **Caught nothing**—the old life is never the same when turning back to it after living with Jesus. God planned it that way. **Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.** Whether their eyes were holden (as in Luke 24:16), or His appearance was changed, we do not know. **Jesus saith . . . Children, have ye any meat**—have you caught any fish? **They answered him, No**—a simple, honest answer. Jesus now prepared them for their last catch. From now on, they would turn to a different occupation in life, that of fishing for men. **Cast the net on the right side**—Jesus knows where the catch can be made, if it be fish or men. And they caught a **multitude of fishes.** (Compare Luke 5:4-8.) Perhaps the miracle reminded John. At least, he knew Jesus then. **Fire of coals there, and fish . . . and bread.** Jesus was still providing for their needs. Once He had blessed another's bread and fish to feed the people. This day He provided His own bread and meat. Jesus is still providing bread and meat for the souls of all men who are poor in spirit. **There were so many, yet was not the net broken**—another miracle.

Jesus' Invitation

John 21:12-14 Come and dine—inviting them to eat with Him. **Taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.** The Master, victorious over all things, still desiring to serve others. **None . . . durst ask . . . knowing . . . it was the Lord.** They knew, yet there seems a strangeness, an awe of Him. No doubt, condemnation for their earlier failures caused them to be estranged. Failure to do right always brings a strangeness to our relationship with Jesus. **Third time that Jesus shewed himself**—that is, to a group of the eleven. Ten definite appearances are mentioned, whether they were all, we do not know. Has Jesus appeared to you? What is your response?

JUST A THOUGHT

**Anything which separates children of God is
foreign to God's plan.**