

JESUS' FIRST AND SECOND APPEARANCES TO THE ELEVEN

BIBLE TEXT : John 20:19-31; Luke 24:36-49

LESSON 250 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29)

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 20:19-31

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.

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

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.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Post Resurrection Appearances of Christ on Easter Day

1 Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene at the tomb

Mark 16:9-11

⁹ 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.

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

¹¹ And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

John 20:11-18

¹¹ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,

¹² And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

¹³ And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

2 Jesus appears to other women on the way from the tomb,

Matthew 28:9-10

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.

3 Jesus appears to Simon Peter,

Luke 24:34

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

1 Corinthians 15:5

⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

4 Jesus appears to two disciples on the way to Emmaus,

Mark 16:12-13

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

¹³ And they went and told *it* unto the residue: neither believed they them.

Luke 24:15-31

¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went

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

²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Luke 24:36-49

³⁶ And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

³⁷ But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁸ And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet.

⁴¹ And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

⁴² And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

⁴³ And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

⁴⁴ And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

⁴⁵ Then opened he their

with them.

¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

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:

²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

²³ And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

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.

²⁸ And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

²⁹ But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

³⁰ And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them.

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

- 5 Jesus appears to the Apostles and others with Thomas absent, Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:36-48; John 20:19-23

II The Post Resurrection Appearances of Christ After Easter

- 1 The Sunday following Easter Jesus appears to the Apostles with Thomas present, John 20:26-29
- 2 Jesus appears to seven disciples while they fish on the sea of Tiberias,

John 21:1-25

¹ 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.

⁵ Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

⁶ And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

⁸ And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

⁹ As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

¹⁰ Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

¹¹ Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

¹² Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

¹³ Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

¹⁸ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry *thee* whither thou wouldest not.

¹⁹ This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

²⁰ Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

²¹ Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*?

²² Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? follow thou me.

²³ Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee?

²⁴ This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

3 Jesus appears to the Apostles on a mountain in Galilee, **Matthew 28:16-20**

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy

Ghost:

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- 4 Jesus appears to more than five hundred brethren,
1 Corinthians 15:6

⁶ 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.

- 5 Jesus appears to James,
1 Corinthians 15:7

⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

- 6 Jesus ascends before the Apostles at Bethany,
Mark 16:19

¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Luke 24:50

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Acts 1:2-9

² Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

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:

⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

1 Corinthians 15:7

⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

- 7 Jesus appears to Paul,
1 Corinthians 15:8

⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

NOTES:

News of the Resurrection

The earth shook. An angel sat upon a stone which he had rolled away from the sepulcher. The message of the living Christ the angel gave the women seemed like an idle tale to the disciples. They thought it could not be so. Peter stooped down and entered into the open sepulcher. There were the linen clothes, but the body was gone. He wondered at that which had happened.

Mary saw Jesus, but the Apostles could not believe it was

really He. The other women saw Jesus — but their story sounded fantastic. The Lord appeared unto Peter and the word was on all their lips, "The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." But in the hearts of many there yet remained a question. Then into the assembly came two disciples from Emmaus with the word that Jesus had walked with them in the way and was made known to them in the breaking of bread. Even yet some doubted.

The Entrance of Jesus

Suddenly the disciples were all terrified and affrighted, for right in their midst stood what seemed to them to be a spirit — but it was Jesus! Even with reassuring words He could scarcely convince them that it was really He. "Behold my hands and my feet," He said. And there in His hands and in His feet were the prints where the nails had been. It was Jesus, their Master and Friend — Jesus, who had walked and talked with them!

Not a Spirit, but a Glorified Person

"A spirit hath not flesh and bones," explained Jesus as He assured the disciples that it was He — in the flesh. As further proof of His physical existence after the resurrection, He asked for meat, and He ate in their presence. Jesus knew the various theories that would arise denying His resurrection from the dead; so He left them with "many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3). He had not only flesh and bones — but there were the prints from the nails, and the cut of the spear, as proof positive of His own resurrected body.

The resurrected body of Christ differed from the natural body in that with His resurrected body He entered rooms "the doors being shut" (John 20:26). He also "vanished out of their sight" (Luke 24:31). But He was not a spirit; He had a body — a resurrected, glorified body. All overcoming Christians shall undergo a similar change at the Rapture of the Church: "We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15:51, 52). Jesus "shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body" (Philippians 3:21). We shall have a glorified body which will resemble our present bodies. That is, we shall be able to recognize one another, but all physical imperfections which are marks of the curse will be gone and we shall live to die no more.

The Opening of Their Understanding

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures" (Luke 24:45). No doubt Jesus quoted such beautiful passages as "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). And thus the light dawned upon them, and they knew He was Jesus.

The Importance of the Resurrection

While some challenge the divinity of Christ and others deny the miracle of His resurrection, true Christianity stands on the fact that Jesus was divine and that He arose from the grave. If we deny the resurrection we deny our faith and take away our hope of Heaven. "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. . . . if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are

fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (I Corinthians 15:14, 17, 18). No wonder that Jesus wanted His disciples to be sure that it was He and not just a spirit. Our salvation and hope of eternity depend upon the fact that His body was resurrected from the dead.

Hard to Convince

In spite of the evidence of at least five separate appearances of Christ to His followers on the day of His resurrection, there still lingered a doubt in the mind of Thomas, who was one of "the eleven." Thomas was not present that evening when Jesus presented Himself to the rest of the Apostles: "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, . . . I will not believe" (John 20:25), declared skeptical Thomas.

The Lord knew the cold, calculating, scientific mind of Thomas would not be convinced by hearsay. Even so, our Lord was not willing that Thomas remain a doubter. Eight days later — that is, the first day of the next week — Jesus appeared to the disciples and, after recognizing the assembly, addressed 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" (John 20:27). That was enough for even the incredulous Thomas, who exclaimed, "My Lord and my God." Even the hard-to-be-convinced Thomas knew it was Jesus.

Breath of God

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:21, 22). Such a breath from the Son of God could not be without significance. In the very beginning of creation God breathed into the nostrils of man the breath of life, and man became a living soul. (See Genesis 2:7.) When Jesus breathed upon these disciples whom He had chosen and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," it is quite possible that He was sending the Holy Ghost to bear witness to their sanctification. We know that they were sanctified by the Blood of Jesus before the Day of Pentecost, for they were all with one accord. It was sanctification which brought that unity: "Sanctify them through thy truth: . . . that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:17, 22).

The Forgiveness of Sins

"Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained" (John 20:23). This authority given to the Apostles as founders of the Church gave them the right to fellowship those who had erred from the faith and had repented, or to exclude those who erred and refused to repent. This instruction is similar to that found in **Matthew 18:15-17** ¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. where the explanation is given that if a brother refuse to recognize the word of the Church he shall be considered as "an heathen man and a publican." Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the

tradition which he received of us" (II Thessalonians 3:6). The authority the Church has to forgive a member is the same as that which every brother has to forgive one who sins against him, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him" (Luke 17:3). This does not mean that the Church, pope, priest, or any man can forgive sins against God. A sin against a brother is also a sin against God. One who has erred must straighten up the matter not only with a brother but also repent before God, for only God can forgive sin.

The Son of God

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30, 31). John has given ample proof that Jesus is the Son of God. And millions of believers who have found life through His Name, down through the years, are witnesses to the power of His resurrection.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead?
- 2 How long after His resurrection was it when He first showed Himself to His Apostles?
- 3 Name the proofs that Jesus offered of His resurrected body.
- 4 Enumerate the various appearances of Christ on Easter Day.
- 5 Look up the prophecies concerning the death and resurrection of Christ.
- 6 What day of the week was it when Jesus showed Himself the second time to His Apostles?
- 7 Who was not present at the first appearance?
- 8 Why is it important that we have proof of the resurrection of the body of Jesus?
- 9 Describe what you can of the glorified body.
- 10 How does a glorified body differ from a spirit?