

Resurrection Appearances of Jesus: Part Three

Read **Luke 24:35-43...** The next appearance of Jesus is in the evening on that first Sunday. Jesus (in His resurrected body) passes right through the walls of a house where the disciples were gathered, like a spirit, yet He had a body and was even able to eat.

Read **John 20:19-20...** Jesus miraculously appears right in front of them, even though (**verse 19**) "*...the doors were shut...*" The word translated "door" implies a *large and solid* door. The word translated "shut" means *locked or secured*, this was often done with a heavy bolt that slid through rings attached to the door and the door frame; this door would have been nearly impossible, to break down.

The disciples were hiding behind locked doors (**verse 19**) "*for fear of the Jews,*" they were probably afraid of being arrested and executed, like Jesus.

Read **Matthew 28:1-15...** The soldiers who guarded Jesus' tomb were paid off by the Chief Priests and were told to tell everyone that Christ's disciples had taken His body. *This is another reason the disciples were hiding behind locked doors on resurrection Sunday evening, for they were fearful that they were next to be executed.*

Read **Luke 24:44-47...** Jesus reminded them of things He already had told them, and He began to show them how the Old Testament Scriptures spoke about Him (**verse 45**), "Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

But what did Jesus mean by, "*all things written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms*" being fulfilled? Jesus had said something like this to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus also.

Luke 24:25-27, Jesus said to them, "'O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?' Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."

I believe Jesus began to open their minds concerning the many passages of the Old Testament that speak about His birth, His rejection by the people, His suffering, His sacrificial death as payment for our sins, and His sovereign resurrection from the dead; of which the following are examples (see **Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Isaiah 53:1-12; Psalm 16:10; Psalm 22:27-31**).

On several occasions Jesus spoke of these things (in part) to His disciples. **Matthew 16:21**, "From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day."

Matthew 17:22-23, "And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.' And they were deeply grieved."

Matthew 20:18-19, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up."

The Old Testament prophecies about God's Anointed [Holy] One [*the Messiah, the Christ*] foretell the plan, purpose and provision of God through His Son, Jesus Christ, who was fully man and yet fully God, as the New Testament clearly declares (see **Ephesians 1:18-21; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-4**).

The next appearance of Jesus, according to the biblical record, occurs one week after His resurrection.

Read **John 20:24-29**... We are told here that on the following Sunday, the Lord came to the Disciples while they were again hiding in a room with the doors locked; but this time, Thomas was present.

The Lord immediately invited Thomas to touch His wounds, so that he might believe. We are not told as to whether or not Thomas reached out to touch the wounds in Christ's body, but more importantly, we have Thomas's strong confession of faith and belief that this is the risen Christ, God's Son (**verse 28**), "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus accepts Thomas's confession of faith, and then declares that in the future, after He has returned to heaven, those who believe in Him without seeing Him (**verse 29**), will indeed be blessed. Jesus is not just talking about a feeling of happiness, but instead, an indwelling supernatural assurance of having been spiritually born into God's eternal family, having been accepted by and brought into an intimate relationship with God, through Christ (see **John 17:1-8, 20-26**).

2Corinthians 5:21, "He [God the Father] made Him [God the Son] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Hebrews 9:22, "According to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Hebrews 9:27-28, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him."

Hebrews 10:3-7, "But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when He [God's Son, Savior] comes into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me. Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.'" **10**, "By this will we have been sanctified [made holy] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." **12**, "He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God." **14**,

"For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." He then says, **17**, "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Read **John 20:30-31**... These accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ are written here in John's Gospel (and in the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke), as first person narratives of the sovereign revelation of God, through Christ the Lord, in order to provide forgiveness for sins, and eternal life, to those who are being saved.

And although none of us were there to hear the words or witness the works of Jesus Christ, or to see the risen Lord, we have this first person report, so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing we may have eternal life in His name, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (for the forgiveness of sins), will be saved.

Remember what Jesus said to Thomas in **John 20:29**, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed."

In **John 17:20-21**, Jesus prayed to the Father saying, "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Take another look at **John 20:30**, "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book."

Note: **John 21:25**, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they *were* written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself *would* not contain the books that *would* be written." **John 20:31**, "these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

God's desire in providing general revelation of Himself in creation and special revelation of Himself through the spoken and written Word of God (the Bible), is so that we might hear the message of Christ and believe it (**Romans 10:17**), "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

God is so gracious and merciful to give us such an abundance of witnesses and testimonies concerning His character, His nature, and His will.

In **Jeremiah 29:11-13** we read, "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find *Me* when you search for Me with all your heart."

Have you trusted in Jesus Christ's death to set you free from the penalty of sin and His resurrection to provide you with eternal life? If not, why not?

1Timothy 2:3-4, "God our Savior ...desires all men [women and children of age] to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

2Peter 3:9, "The Lord... ..is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

God turns no one away! He loves you so much (**John 3:16**), "that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Maybe you are hearing this today, and you aren't sure. Listen, we are all sinners, every one of us, and the penalty for sin is death, but through Jesus Christ, who is the only way, the only truth, and the only life from God, we can be eternally set free from sin's penalty.

Three times we are told (**Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13**) "that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord [for the forgiveness of sin] will be saved," (**Acts 4:12**), "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved," only that of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior.

In **1John 1:1-3** the aged Apostle John writes, "What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

In **1John 5:11-13** the Apostle sums it up, "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. [I write these things] to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Do you know for sure that you have received forgiveness for sin and eternal life? If you have any doubt, If your heart is speaking to you today, don't put it off, don't delay. Right now, right where you are (**Romans 10:9-10**), "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Pastor Mike
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