

The Risen Christ First Appears to His Disciples

Promise: Christ still comes to us that we might have saving faith

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 5:29-42; Psalm 148; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

(Second Sunday of Easter, 4/19/20)

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. — v 20

Lead In – Skeptics insist that Jesus did not actually rise from the dead, but that such a belief belongs to a pre-enlightenment age. We know now, so the claim goes, that once rigor mortis sets in, the body isn't coming back to life. The implication being that the ancients had no such knowledge. But on the face of it, that claim is patently false! Jesus' disciples were not looking for His resurrection, nor did they believe the first reports of it...

I. What Do We Learn Of Jesus' Resurrected Body?

- A. He is not bound by space (tomb, doors, travel)...
- B. He could be touched, He could eat, the scars!
- C. First appearances not in all His glory!

II. The Continuance of Jesus' Mission

- A. The ministry of forgiveness...
- B. Equipment of the Word and power of Spirit...

III. On Believing And Having Life in His Name

- A. The importance of gathering together!
- B. Seeing isn't believing! But tangible ways...
- C. The purpose of Gospel Accounts...

Parting Shot – The gulf between the twenty-first century and the first is not so wide as people imagine, at least not in every way. Technologically, it is incredibly broad. And scientifically, we can give more, and perhaps better explanations, for things observed. But the ancients knew women did not become pregnant without conjugal relations. They knew exhumed corpses did not start breathing and dancing again. And they had just as hard a time believing the Gospel then, as we do today... But Christ continues to come to us to open the eyes of faith...

Lk 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

Lk 24:41-43 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Lk 24:47 that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

John 20:19-31 ESV

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Lk 24:31-32 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

Rm 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

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