

Alive Now and Forever

Lesson Twenty-Five

Matthew 28; Mark 16;
Luke 24; John 19, 20, 21
Acts 1

After the death and burial of Jesus, the disciples huddle together in fear. They do not remember the words of Jesus. They do not remember that they are to meet Him in Galilee. The doubt they express when the women return to tell them of Jesus' resurrection, indicates that they simply have not understood what has happened or why. This lesson deals with the resurrection of our Lord and His activities on that day and for the forty days until His ascension.

THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8;
Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10

The body of Jesus was not fully taken care of on the day of His death because of Sabbath day restrictions. Final burial preparations were to be done as soon as the Sabbath was over. Women were to take more spices to the grave after the Sabbath. **Read Mark 16:1-3. (Slide 1)**

Who go to the grave? 1.) Mary Magdalene

2.) Mary mother of James

3.) Salome

What time of day is it? Very early in the morning (sunrise)

What problem do they anticipate? The stone will need to be rolled away

And behold there was a great earthquake. For the angel of the Lord descended 2 from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning and his clothes white as snow. For fear of him, the guards shook and became as dead men. When the women looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away; for it was very great. They entered in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Who rolls away the stone? An angel of the Lord

What is the reaction of the guards? They shake and faint

Is Jesus there? no



And it came to pass as they entered the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side clothed in a long white garment; and they were afraid. He said to the women, **3** "Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen. He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him. But go your way. Tell His disciples and Peter that He goes before you into Galilee.

There shall you see Him as He said to you." And they remembered His words and went out quickly and fled from the sepulcher, for they were troubled and amazed. They told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Their words seemed to them as idle tales and they did not believe them. Then Mary Magdalene ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

What three things concerning Jesus does the angel tell the women?

- 1.) He is not here 2.) He is risen
 3.) He is on His way to Galilee

Why does the angel say to tell the "disciples and Peter"? Peter had denied Him
so Jesus has a special concern for Him

Are the women believed? no

To whom does Mary Magdalene make a special appeal? Peter and John

Peter and John take heed of the information given to them by the women and the appeal of Mary Magdalene. **Read John 20:3-10** to see how they respond. (Slide 4)

Where do they go? To the tomb

What do they see at the tomb? Strips of linen, burial cloth

THE FIRST APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN LORD

Matthew 28

John 20

Jesus' followers are slowly beginning to understand that Jesus has risen from the dead. Soon Jesus is appearing to various individuals and eventually to whole groups of people. **Read John 20:11-17** for details of Jesus' appearing to Mary Magdalene. (Slide 5, 6)

What does Mary see as she looks into the tomb? Two angels

What do they ask her? Why she is crying

For whom does Mary mistake Jesus? the gardener

Does she come to recognize Jesus? yes

And as the other women went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them saying, "All hail!" And they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then said Jesus to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell My brethren that they go into Galilee and there shall they see Me."

What is the reaction of the women to seeing Jesus? worshipped Him

What message are they to take to the disciples? They will see Jesus in

Galilee – go there

Remember that there were guards posted at the tomb. Then there was an earthquake and an angel appeared and rolled away the stone that was placed at the entrance of the tomb. The guards were terrified. The last thing the chief priests want is for these guards to spread news of these events. The chief priests were so sure they were done dealing with Jesus. Now they must endeavor to keep the guards from talking. **Read Matthew 28:11-15** to see what is done.

What do the chief priests do? Give the guards lots of money

What lie are the guards to spread? The disciples took the body while they slept

Do they do as they are told? yes

JESUS APPEARS ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS

Luke 24:13-25

Mark 16:12,13

The disciples of Jesus are trying to piece together all of the events of the past few days. They have heard confusing reports of people who claim to have seen and spoken with the Lord. They are battling feelings of utter disappointment and sorrow. The next episode shows two of Jesus' disciples who are so involved with their own feelings that they fail to recognize the Lord.

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus that was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They talked together of all these things which had happened.

Where are they going? To Emmaus

Jesus joins these two men. **Read about it in Luke 24:15-24. (Slide 7)**

What does Jesus ask them? what they are talking about

What is their answer? Jesus of Nazareth

What had they hoped concerning Jesus? He would be the one to redeem Israel

Then he said to them, "How foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. They drew near the village where they were going and He made as though He would have gone further. But they constrained Him saying, "Stay with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. 8

What does He tell them about the Christ? These things had to happen; He had to suffer these things

What time of day is it when they arrive at the village? evening

What do they want Jesus to do? Stay with them

Have they recognized Him as Jesus? No

The story continues. **Read Luke 24:30-35. (Slide 9)**

When do they recognize Jesus? when He breaks the bread

Where do they go? Back to Jerusalem

Whom do they find? The eleven apostles

Jesus has also appeared to whom? Simon

CHRIST APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-48;
John 20:19-31

All of the above events have occurred on the day Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus' first appearance to a group of His disciples also occurs on this day. The group is referred to as the "Eleven." This term is used when referring to the apostles as a group. All eleven were not present at this first appearance.

*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, Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, **10** "Peace be with you." But they were terrified and afraid and supposed that they had seen a spirit. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see. For a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." When He had thus spoken, He showed them His hands and His feet and His side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. While they yet believed not for joy and wondered, He said to them, "Have you here any meat?" And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. He took it and ate it before them. Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be with you; as My Father sent Me, even so send I you."*



Why are the disciples all together behind locked doors? Fear of the Jews

What is their first reaction to seeing Jesus? they think He is a spirit

Why? He appeared through locked doors and windows

For what does Jesus ask? food

What two things in this passage indicate that Jesus is not a ghost?

1.) He has flesh and bones 2.) eats

What did the Father send Jesus to do? Bring salvation

What are the disciples sent to do? Work for the kingdom of God

Jesus entrusts His followers with a specific authority. **Read about it in John 20:21-23.**

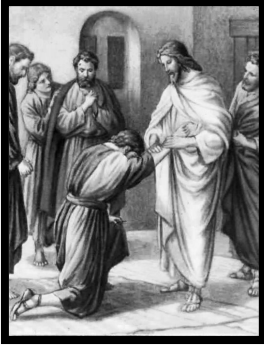
What does Jesus give them to enable them to do the work of spreading the news

of salvation? The Holy Spirit

What does He tell them? If they forgive people they are forgiven; if not they are not

This authority is used with the power of the Holy Spirit. Some of the people who hear the good news of salvation will gladly receive it, thus resulting in the forgiveness of their sins. Others will hear the gospel message and harden their hearts against the Lord. This results in their sins not being forgiven.

One of the apostles was not present when Jesus first appeared to the group. This was Thomas. He has heard the reports of the others and has steadfastly refused to believe them.



*But Thomas, one of the Twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to 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 hands into His side, I will not believe." After eight days again His disciples were in a room and Thomas with them. Then Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, **11** "Reach here your finger and behold My hands, and reach here your hand and thrust it into My side. Be not faithless but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed."*

Does Thomas believe the report of the others? no

What will have to happen before Thomas believes? He says he will have to put his hands where the nails and spear went

What is Thomas' response when He actually sees Jesus? He worships and says "My Lord and my God."

Who are blessed according to Jesus? those who believe without seeing

CHRIST'S APPEARANCE IN GALILEE

John 21

Jesus said He would meet His disciples in Galilee, and He does. **Read John 21:1-13. (Slide 12, 13, 14)**

What are some of the disciples doing? fishing

Do they recognize Jesus at first? no

What does He tell them to do? Let down the nets on the right side

What happens when they do what He says? *They catch a lot of fish*

Who first recognizes the Lord? *John*

What does Peter do? *Jumps in the water and goes to shore*

What does Jesus have ready on the shore? *Fire and coals*

What do they all do together? *eat*

Peter denied knowing Jesus three times on the night Jesus was betrayed. His threefold denial was a serious matter. Jesus had declared him a "fisher of men." Yet without the forgiveness of Jesus for the denials, Peter would be unable to fulfill that role. Jesus will confront Peter on this matter after the group share their breakfast. This is referred to as the reinstatement of Peter into the apostleship. It, too, is a threefold process.

*So when they had dined, Jesus said to Simon Peter, **15** "Simon, son of Jonas, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him the second time, "Simon, son of Jonas, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My sheep." He said to Him a third time, "Simon, son of Jonas, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted. But when you are old, you shall stretch forth your hands and another shall dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." This He spoke signifying by what death he should glorify God. When He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."*

What does Jesus ask Peter three times? *"Do you love Me?"*

What is Peter's reply each time? *Yes, You know that I do.*

What will happen to Peter in his old age? *He will be taken where he does not*

want to go; he will die a martyr's death

According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down. This is certainly being taken "where you do not want to go."

CHRIST'S ASCENSION

Matthew 28; Mark 16;

Luke 24; Acts 1

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus ascends into heaven. Before He goes, He leaves some instructions for His disciples. This occurs in Galilee. The actual ascension takes place near Bethany which is on the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem.

*Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee to a mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him. Jesus came and spoke to them saying, **16** "All power is given Me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. And, lo, I am with you always even to the end of the world. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that does not believe shall be condemned."*

Where does this final meeting take place? On a mountain in Galilee

What two things are the disciples to do? 1.) teach

2.) baptize

Jesus knows they will need the power of the Holy Spirit in order to do the things He has commanded them. He tells them to wait in Jerusalem.. **Read Acts 1:3-8** for more information.

How long will they have to wait? A few days

What will happen to them? they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit

Where are they to be witnesses? Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and all nations

*And He led them out as far as Bethany and lifted up His hands and blessed them. It came to pass while He blessed them, He was parted from them **14** and carried up into heaven while they were watching and a cloud received Him out of their sight. While they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven." And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives with great joy. They were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God.*



What town are they near? Bethany

How does Jesus depart? In a cloud (ascends)

Who are the two men in white? angels

How will Jesus return? The same way He left (in a cloud)

Where do they go? Jerusalem

What do they do? Go to the Temple and praise and bless God

REVIEW

1. Who opens the grave? angel
2. Whom do the women see in the tomb? Angel (two angels)
3. Do the disciples believe what the women tell them? no
4. Which two disciples run to the tomb? Peter and John
5. What are the guards to tell the people? The disciples stole the body
6. To whom does Jesus explain the Scriptures concerning Himself? The two disciples
on the way to Emmaus
7. Which apostle is not present when Jesus first appears to them? Thomas
8. How do the disciples know Jesus is not a ghost? Has flesh and bones and eats
9. What convinces Thomas that Jesus has arisen? He sees Him
10. What are the disciples doing when Jesus comes to them in Galilee? fishing
11. What does Jesus ask Peter three times? "Do you love Me?"
12. Why? to reinstate him as a disciple after his denials
13. What command does Jesus give the disciples before He ascends? Go to all nations
teaching and baptizing
14. From where does Jesus ascend into heaven? Mt. of Olives (Bethany)
15. In what way will Jesus return? On a cloud (the same as He went)

