

John 20:11-21:25

Jesus Appears to Mary and the Disciples; Peter is Restored

Day 1

Read John 20:11-23

Mary sees the Lord

1. What emotional state was Mary in? 20:11

IT'S GREEK TO ME "weeping" Strong's #2799 klaio...to sob, i.e. wail aloud - Strong's Concordance

2. What did she see in the tomb? 20:12 (Compare what happened with the other women - Luke 24:3-7)

- Why do you think the angel questioned Mary? 20:13

3. What did it take for Mary to recognize Jesus? 20:16 (Compare John 10:4)

- How did Mary respond to Jesus? 20:17 (What two titles did she use to refer to Jesus? 20:16,18)

For Your Information: "Mary felt so overwhelmed with relief-supposing she had her Lord back in the same manner as before-that she embraced Him and held on as though letting go would cause her to lose Him again. Jesus reassured Mary that she would see Him again as He had not yet ascended to the Father...His physical presence on earth was temporary; before long, He would ascend to take His place in glory...Mary's physical clinging would have to give way to another kind of bond, a relationship of faith."
- Charles Swindoll (345)

4. What assignment did Jesus give Mary? 20:17 (Why do you think He appeared to Mary first?)

For Your Information: "The fact that Jesus makes a woman the first witness of His resurrection is significant. The law courts of that day would not recognize the testimony of a woman, but Jesus did. This also argues for the historic truth of this account. If someone fabricated this story, would they make the first witnesses to the resurrection women, who were commonly (if unfairly) regarded as unreliable witnesses?"
- David Guzik

The Lord appears to the disciples

5. What fears were the disciples struggling with after Jesus' death? 20:19 With what kind of guilt would they have been dealing?

6. How did Jesus come to them? 20:19

7. What did Jesus say or do to alleviate the disciples' fears?

- 20:19b (Cf. 14:27,28)

- 20:20

- 20:21a

8. How did Jesus encourage and equip them for the future?

- 20:21b

- 20:22

- 20:23

For Your Information: "The phrase rendered '*have been forgiven them*' (20:23) in the NASB is in the passive voice and perfect tense, describing an action already taken by God...which has ongoing results. The sins of believers already have been forgiven by God. If 'any' respond with belief to the disciples' proclamation of the gospel, the disciple have the authority to pronounce them forgiven."
 - Charles Swindoll (347)

"God does not forgive people's sins because we do so, not does He withhold forgiveness because we do. Rather, those who proclaim the gospel are in effect forgiving or not forgiving sins, depending on whether the hearers accept or reject Jesus Christ."
 - NIV Study Bible (1637)

9. What do you observe about Jesus' resurrected body from the following verses?

John 20:19 Luke 24:31	
John 20:20,27 Luke 24:39	
Luke 24:41-43 Acts 10:41	

10. What kind of body will believers have in eternity? 1 Corinthians 15:40-44; Philippians 3:21

Applying the Word: Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. State the importance of the resurrection in your own words.

Day 2

Read John 20:24-21:14

Jesus' appears to the disciples again

10. What response did Thomas have to the reports of Jesus' appearances to the other disciples? 20:24,25 (For other statements by Thomas see John 11:16; 14:5)
11. When, where and how did Jesus appear to Thomas? 20:26 Why do you think Jesus waited?
12. Compare Jesus' commands (20:27) to Thomas' demands (20:25). What would this have communicated to Thomas?

Food for Thought: "The Lord offered Thomas the reassurance he wanted. His gentle rebuke said, in effect, 'It's okay to place complete confidence in Me; I won't let you down. I am here, I am real, and I won't abandon you.'" - Charles Swindoll (348)

13. What titles did Thomas give to Jesus? 20:28 (Note: Did Jesus accept his declaration?)

For Your Information: "Mary had already used the word "My Lord" and Thomas but carries the conviction to its limits, 'My Lord and my God..."

The direction written by Dorothy L Sayers for her broadcast, 'The Man Born to be King,' is worth reading here:

"It is unexpected, but extraordinarily convincing, that the one absolutely unequivocal statement, in the whole Gospel, of the Divinity of Jesus should come from doubting Thomas. It is the only place where the word 'God' is used of Him without qualification of any kind..." - Charles Welch (444,445)

"Thomas is a good example in many ways. He refused to say he understood when he didn't, he refused to pretend to believe when he didn't. And when he did understand and believe, he went all the way and properly called Jesus **Lord** and **God**."

- David Guzik

14. What promise is given to those who believe? 20:29 (Compare 2 Corinthians 5:7)

15. What else happened after Jesus resurrection? 20:30

16. What was the goal of John's gospel? 20:31 How does that relate to 20:29?

Jesus' third appearance to the disciples

Food for Thought: "The last week in Jerusalem had been a trying and confusing period in the lives of these men. In the space of a few days they had received more teaching from Jesus than their immature spiritual state could assimilate; they had seen their hopes of an outward kingdom shattered; one of the own number had betrayed Jesus to the chief priests, and all of them had forsaken Him as He went to the cross. In two or three hours they had been reduced from the position of disciples of an honored and popular teacher to that of the hunted partisans of a discredited impostor. Then, in addition to all this, came the resurrection, with the startling appearances and the unmistakable proof that Jesus had risen." - Merrill Tenney (288)

17. From 21:1-4, record the following information about the next "manifestation/appearance" of Jesus to the disciples:

- When did it occur?
- Where were they? Why were they there? (See Mark 16:7)
- Who was there?
- What was happening? 21:3

18. What made John recognize Jesus? 21:5-7a

- What do you think Jesus was trying to communicate to the disciples by the huge catch of fish? Compare Luke 5:1-11

19. From Peter's actions in 21:7b what would you say about his feelings?

20. What did Jesus do with them? 20:9-13 (Compare Acts 10:41)

- How familiar was this environment and activity to them? What was different? 21:12b?

21. Do you see any significance in the fish and loaves of bread (21:13)? (See John 6:9-11)
22. In what ways would this appearance and the miracle Jesus performed for the disciples have ministered to their hearts?

Optional Digging Deeper
Fill in information about the 8th sign on the chart "Signs in the Gospel of John."

Applying the Word: How has the Lord surprisingly encouraged you during a time of confusions, stress, disappointment or waiting?

Day 3

Read John 21:15

Jesus' restores Peter

23. List the three questions, answers and commands in the conversation between Jesus and Peter.

Jesus' question	Peter's answer	Jesus' command
21:15 ("love" = <i>agapao</i> *)	("love" = <i>phileo</i>)	
21:16 ("love" = <i>agapao</i>)	("love" = <i>phileo</i>)	
21:17 ("love" = <i>phileo</i>)	("love" = <i>phileo</i>)	

For Your Information: "Jesus was seeking to probe Peter's inmost purpose in following Him. The desire for personal success, eminence, achievement, reward or even the relatively unselfish motive of doing something for needy humanity was not enough. Only a complete love for Christ would be sufficient to carry him and his fellow-disciples through the careers which awaited them in the future."
- Merrill Tenney (292)

24. What reminder might there have been for Peter in:

- Jesus' first question? (See Matthew 26:33)
- The fire? (See John 18:25)
- Asking *three* questions? (See John 13:38)

For Your Information:

"Do you love Me more than these?"

"Jesus met with Peter individually on the day of His resurrection, (Luke 24:34) but a public restoration was also needed. Jesus strangely asks Peter to compare his love for Him with that of the other disciples. It is possible that 'these' refers to the fish and a fisherman's life. Jesus could be asking Peter if he is willing to give up fishing again to follow Him. But Peter *had* claimed a superior love (Matthew 26:33)...

Jesus asks about agape love (all giving, uncaused, unselfish love) and Peter answers with phileo love (reciprocal, friendly affection). Some translations have Peter answering 'I am your friend.' Some commentators see no distinctions between the two different ancient Greek terms, but most say that Peter is now more reserved in his proclamation of devotion...

Jesus allowed Peter a three-fold public affirmation of love to replace a three-fold denial, and gave him a three-fold challenge to feed My sheep."

- David Guzik

"Peter's *philia* fell short of what either man desired, but he deserved high marks of honesty. Furthermore, it acknowledged the truth of Peter's love. His affection for Jesus could not be denied, but he was powerless to avoid future failure, and he knew that. Now--with proud confidence a thing of the past--Peter was ready to depend on the Lord to accomplish ministry...Failure is inevitable. And the Lord is never surprised when we fail. It's not as though He called us to follow Him without knowing the future! With the penalty of our sins pain in full, failure for the believer is merely a reminder to depend on Him rather than on self – to replace self-confidence with Christ-confidence."

- Charles Swindoll (356,359)

25. What does this conversation teach about loving the Lord and following Him? (Compare 1 John 4:10-12)

26. What did Jesus tell Peter about his future? 21:18,19

- In what ways would this have restored and encouraged Peter even more?

27. What final command did Jesus give Peter? 21:19b (Compare Matthew 4:18-20)

- Why would this command require at this point?

Optional Digging Deeper

For how well Peter accepted the task given him, read Acts 2-5.

Compare Peter's instructions to others in 1 Peter 5:1-7.

28. Why do you think Peter compared himself to John? 21:20,21
(Consider how faithful John had been. 19:26)

29. What remedy did Jesus give for having the right priority and focus? 21:22

- How did people misinterpret Jesus' words? 21:23

30. What three things did John affirm? 21:24 (Who is "we" referring to?) (Compare 1 John 1:1,2)

Optional Digging Deeper

What do the following verses say about our attitude toward the work of others and toward our own work?

1 Corinthians 12:18-24

2 Corinthians 3:5

Philippians 2:2-3

- Why didn't he write an exhaustive account of Jesus' life? 21:25

Optional Digging Deeper

For a study of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances, fill in the chart on the next page.

For Your Information: 'It was also customary in Rome, and all the territories of the empire, to have all legal documents signed and sworn, testifying to their authenticity. As John blotted the ink and prepared to roll it up for distribution to the churches, he added his sworn statement, testifying to the truth of all he had written under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. And he was joined by others, who witnessed his signature.'
– Charles Swindoll (361)

Applying the Word: *In spite of all Peter's failings, Jesus accomplished an amazing work in him. Are you comparing yourself to anybody else and coming up short? Where are you allowing any limitations or failings to block or doubt the Lord's work in your life?*

Optional Digging Deeper

Jesus' Post-Resurrection Appearances

Reference	To Whom	Other details (if given)
John 20:14-18		
Matthew 28:8-10		
Luke 24:33-36		
Luke 24:13-31		
John 20:19-23		
John 20:26-29		
John 21:1-23		
Matthew 28:16-20		
1 Corinthians 15:6		
1 Corinthians 15:7		
Acts 1:2-9		
Acts 9:3-8 1 Corinthians 15:8		

Day 4

Optional Digging Deeper
Memorize John 20:29

- Has the study of the gospel of John changed your view of God? If so, how?
- What did you learn about the lives of the disciples that encouraged you?
- Consider the purpose of John's gospel: *"Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but 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."* (20:30,31) NASU
How has God convicted, corrected and/or encouraged you through this study?