

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

The Book of John

Lesson 23

Christ Appears to His Disciples

John 20:19 – 21:25

REFLECTION

Review John 20:1-18. What touched your heart about the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

FOCUS VERSE

And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!' (John 20:28).

SECTION 1 – The Apostles¹ Commissioned²

Read John 20:19-25.

1. What day and time was it (v. 19)? _____³

Where were the disciples? Why? _____

What did Jesus do? _____

2. What did Jesus do to assure the disciples of who He was (v. 20)? _____

How did they react? _____

What else is recorded in Mark 16:14 and Luke 24:36-45 about this encounter with Christ? _____

¹ apostles: the disciples of Jesus; those who saw the resurrected LORD, and were personally commissioned by Him to preach the Gospel.

² commissioned: authorization with full empowerment to perform a certain task.

³ the same day: the day of the resurrection.

3. What did Jesus commission the disciples to do (John 20:21)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What is the Great Commission of our LORD for His disciples throughout the ages (John 20:21, Matthew 28:19, 20, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:46-49, Acts 1:1-8)?

4. What did Jesus give to the disciples as He breathed on them (John 20:22)? _____

5. When did God first breathe on man (Genesis 2:7)? _____

What happens for man in each instance? _____

NOTE

John 20:23: Jesus was speaking of the responsibility of the disciples to declare the power of the Gospel to bring man to repentance. They understood that only the Son of God has power on earth to forgive sins (Mark 2:7).

6. At this appearance of Jesus, which disciple was not present (John 20:24, 25)? _____

What was his response to the disciples' news of seeing the Lord? _____

PERSONAL

How have you been like Thomas? _____

Have you ever demanded that God prove Himself to you? Explain. _____

7. When did Jesus appear to the disciples next (v. 26)? _____

What was His repeated greeting? _____

Who was present at this time? _____

8. What did Jesus say specifically to Thomas (vv. 27, 28)? _____

How did Thomas express his faith⁴ in Jesus? _____

PERSONAL

Who has Jesus become to you? _____

9. How did Jesus exhort Thomas (v. 29)? _____

How are you encouraged by Jesus' words? _____

10. What was John's purpose for writing this Gospel (vv. 30, 31)? _____

⁴ faith: to believe that Jesus is God. Faith proves that what is unseen is real (Hebrews 11:1).

How has this purpose been fulfilled in your life? _____

SECTION 2 – Breakfast by the Sea⁵

Read John 21:1-14.

1. Where did Jesus show Himself again (vv. 1, 2)? _____

Where were the disciples? _____

Why did they go there (Matthew 28:7, 10, Mark 16:6, 7)? _____

2. Why do you think Peter decided to go back to his fishing (John 21:3)? _____

3. What had Jesus called Peter and his brother Andrew to do (Matthew 4:18-20)? _____

4. As the disciples toiled all night fishing unsuccessfully, who stood on the shore observing them (John 21:4-6)? _____

How did Jesus address His disciples? _____

What did He reveal to them? _____

What was the result of Christ's revelation? _____

PERSONAL

What did you learn from this fishing trip? _____

⁵ Sea of Tiberias; Sea of Galilee; Sea of Genesaret.

5. Who recognized the Lord (vv. 7, 8)? _____⁶

What did He say? _____

Describe Peter's exuberant reaction? _____

PERSONAL

Meditate and then record your thoughts on the differences between John and Peter's responses to the sight of the Lord.

6. Describe all that happened when the disciples came to the shore (John 21:9-11). _____

7. What was Jesus' invitation to His disciples (vv. 12-14)? _____

How did they react? _____

How did Jesus serve them? _____

PERSONAL

When was the last time you responded to the risen Savior's invitation, '*Come and dine* [with Me]' (KJV)? What happened?

⁶ disciple whom Jesus loved: John the Beloved; writer of John's Gospel.

SECTION 3 – Simon Peter’s Exclusive Conversation with Jesus

Read John 21:15-25.

1. After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter: v. 15 _____
_____ 7
Peter answered: _____ 8
Jesus instructed: _____
2. Jesus asked Peter a second time: v. 16 _____
_____ 9
Peter answered: _____ 10
Jesus repeated: _____
3. Jesus asked Peter the third time: v. 17 _____
_____ 11
Peter answered: _____ 12
Jesus again repeated: _____
4. How did Peter feel the third time Jesus asked him the question? _____

PERSONAL

Peter had denied Christ three times. Christ was now restoring him for service. When have you sinned deeply? How did Christ restore you?

5. What did Jesus reveal to Peter about the way he should die (vv. 18, 19)? _____

⁷ love: Gk. agapao; deep self-sacrificing, devoted love whose source is God.

⁸ love: Gk. phileo; brotherly affection; to like and be fond of.

⁹ love: Gk. agapao; deep self-sacrificing, devoted love whose source is God.

¹⁰ love: Gk. phileo; brotherly affection; to like and be fond of.

¹¹ love: Gk. phileo; brotherly affection; to like and be fond of.

¹² love: Gk. phileo; brotherly affection; to like and be fond of.

6. What was Peter's next concern (vv. 20-22)? _____

What did Jesus repeatedly command Peter to do (vv. 19b, 22b)? _____

7. What rumor concerning John began to circulate from this conversation (v. 23)? _____

What had Jesus specifically said? _____

PERSONAL

Whose walk distracts you from fully following Jesus? _____

Taking to heart what Jesus said to Peter, what will you do? _____

8. How does John conclude this Gospel (vv. 24, 25)? _____

What are your thoughts as you have completed this amazing Gospel? _____

... *Follow Me.*
John 21:19

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