

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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**MOVING BEYOND MERE KNOWLEDGE OF THE RESURRECTION**

Matthew 28; Luke 24; John 20 & 21

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I'll be sharing with you about the people with whom the risen Lord interacted after the resurrection. Here are the sections of today's message:

- Jesus interacted with the women.
- Next, Jesus interacted with Cleopas and an unnamed person.
- Jesus interacted with his disciples four times.
- Jesus interacted with over 500 people.

**INTRODUCTION:** For the last couple of Sundays, I spoke about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I spoke about the women who encountered Jesus after the resurrection, and on my Facebook Live time with our Wednesday crowd, I spoke about one of Jesus' appearances to his disciples. Today I will share with you many of the scriptures about the appearances of Jesus after he was resurrected.

I want you to listen closely so you will follow my pattern: I'll point out to you **WHEN** the appearance happened, **WHAT** happened, **WHO** was involved, and their reactions if any.

**JESUS' INTERACTION WITH THE WOMEN**

In Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20, we find Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, Salome, JoAnna, and perhaps another unnamed woman.

- *What were their reactions to seeing Jesus?* At first, they did not recognize him, but when he called Mary by her name, she recognized his voice. The

Gospels give us a variety of emotions: fear, trembling, joy. I like the way Matthew describes the scene.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 28:9-10

*Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”*

- *What can we learn from this encounter?* They heard his voice. They recognized it was him. They worshiped him. Then he gave them instructions.

**APPLICATION:** We can follow the same sequence: Hear his voice. Recognize that it’s him. Worship him. Listen for instructions.

Hearing and recognizing his voice are found in John 10: *My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me.*

Someone may say, “How do you know the voice of Jesus? Do you hear it, literally?” No, believers in Jesus Christ do not hear his voice literally. However, let me say that if Jesus wants to speak in an audible voice to us, he certainly can.

- We know his voice by knowing his word.
- We know his direction by knowing his word.

**EXPLANATION:** Again, listen to the pattern we see at the resurrection: hearing his voice, recognizing it’s him, worshiping him, and listening for instructions. I’ve covered the part about hearing his voice and recognizing his word, but how about worshiping?

We’ve complicated worship. In most churches today, “singing” is considered worship. That is certainly a part of worship, but singing alone is not worship. You’ve heard me talk about that in detail before. Listen closely – what is worship? Worship is an expression of reverence or adoration. Yes, but there is more to it: Worship is obedience.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 12:1

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”*

Singing a bunch of songs with adoration to Jesus Christ and then not offering your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, cancels out the emotion you put into those songs. The women at the resurrection heard his voice, recognized it, received instructions, and then obeyed! The voice of Jesus will never tell you to do something that is contrary to his word.

**JESUS' INTERACTION WITH CLEOPAS AND SOMEONE ELSE**

Jesus interacted with two more on Resurrection Day as we see in Luke 24 -- Cleopas and another unnamed person. Cleopas is only mentioned here and nowhere else in the Bible, but it's clear he knew the disciples. Like the women, they did not recognize Jesus at first, so they witnessed to him, telling him about himself. Don't you think it pleased Jesus to hear this? They invited him to join them for supper, and they recognized it was Jesus by the way he broke the bread. Then Jesus disappeared. Listen to what Luke 24:30-31 says:

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24:30-31

*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.*

- *What were the reactions of these two men who encountered Jesus while they were walking? At first, they were sad, but when they recognized him, they were glad. Then they immediately went to Jerusalem to tell the eleven disciples and people who were with them. An interesting note, earlier they had asked this man - who they did not know was Jesus - to stay with them because night was coming. Perhaps it was dangerous to travel at night, or maybe the weather was bad, or maybe they were being hospitable. But what we notice is that after seeing Jesus and seeing him vanish in front of him, traveling at night was no longer a concern.*

- *What can we learn from this encounter?* We can learn that Jesus was for all believers, including this one man who is never mentioned in scripture again and the unnamed person with him. These two men are symbolic of the unknown and unpopular people of the world. Jesus did not cater to favorites. Think how honored these men must have felt when they thought about it later. “Jesus appeared to us, and we are nobodies! Wow!”

## **JESUS’ INTERACTION WITH THE DISCIPLES**

Jesus also appeared to his disciples on Resurrection Day...yep, those who abandoned him and hid. He wasn't in a hurry to see them, though. He saw others first, but he loved them and appeared among them in the locked room. This appearance happened the evening of the resurrection.

- *How did they discover it was Jesus?* He said, “Peace be with you.” He had them to touch his scars and he ate food.
- *What were their reactions?* Startled and frightened, they thought they'd seen a ghost. Then they were overjoyed. What did Jesus tell them? He told them to forgive people.

### **SCRIPTURE:** John 20:19-23

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”*

- *What can we learn from this encounter?* Jesus is in the forgiving business, if he can forgive his disciples for abandoning him, then they should have been able to forgive others. The same is for us. Let's keep that in mind. So these are the people who saw Jesus on Resurrection Day. He appeared to and interacted with people in three different situations:

- He interacted with people who came to see him.
- He interacted with people who were traveling.
- He interacted with his disciples who were hiding.

Jesus met people wherever they happened to be. We have no specific record of what Jesus did for the next week. During the week of the crucifixion, we have a day-by-day schedule of events, except for Wednesday. But we have no specific record of what he did the week following the resurrection.

Let's move on. About a week later, he met Thomas and the other disciples. Thomas was not in the house with the locked doors when Jesus appeared to them on the evening of the resurrection, but Thomas was with them a week later. And, once again the doors were locked.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 20:26-28

*A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

- *How did Thomas discover it was Jesus?* He touched Jesus' hands and his side where he'd been wounded.
- *What did Jesus tell him?* Stop doubting and believe!
- *What was Thomas' reaction?* "My Lord and My God!"
- *What can we learn from this encounter?* We learn that Thomas wasted a week wandering in doubt. He did not believe the disciples he had lived and traveled with for several years.

Next, In John 21, Jesus saw his disciples fishing. They had caught nothing, and he told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, and then their net was full.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 21:7-11

*Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples*

*followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

After this, he reinstated Peter, who had denied him three times on the night of the crucifixion. And Matthew 28 records a fourth appearance to the disciples at a mountain in Galilee. This is where he said to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24:50-53

*When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*

I love the way Acts, chapter three tells us about Jesus during those forty days:

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 1:3-11

*After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking*

*intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

- *Who? The disciples?*
- *What was the occasion? The ascension.*
- *What was their reaction? Standing there staring before being told to go to work!*

## **JESUS’ INTERACTION WITH 500+ PEOPLE**

And then years later, the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1Corinthians 15:6

*After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

Those are the interactions with Jesus from the resurrection to the ascension. Later, we read where Jesus appeared to Saul, who became known as the apostle Paul. That happened after the ascension and is a sermon for another time.

**CONCLUSION:** Why did Jesus remain for 40 days after the resurrection? To appear to many people and to prepare his disciples for the work ahead of them. We have a few records but what did he do the rest of the time? John tells us that, *“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.”*

The people I just told you about experienced the risen Lord. Won’t you experience him today? The title of this message is “Moving Beyond Mere Knowledge of the Resurrection”.

- Let us listen for his voice. If at first we aren’t sure it’s him, we should keep listening. Some of the followers of Jesus did not recognize him at first.

- Let us worship him – meaning we are presenting ourselves to him as a living sacrifice willing to do whatever he wants, however he wants it.
- Let us learn from the eyewitnesses and the written record.
- Let us not doubt but have faith. Listen to the words of Jesus to Thomas and us from John 20:29: *“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* Do you see that he included you and me in this word? Those who have not seen yet believed.
- If you are plagued with doubt, here’s my encouragement to you today: Pray this prayer: *Dear Lord, I doubt and my faith is weak. I really do want to believe – I do not want to doubt. I want to have faith. In my weakness, I believe. Help my faith in you to grow.*

God bless you today and I hope you experience the risen Lord. And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

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