

61. Jesus Appeared After His Resurrection

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn why it is so important for them to understand that the Holy Spirit is the One who will convince those who are not Christians that Jesus is alive. In our topic today, we are going to see that there were also witnesses who saw Jesus after the resurrection.

In our last topic, we saw that the angel had told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead. They obeyed the angel and went and told the disciples. However, they did not tell anyone else. Mark 16:9-13 says, “Now when *He* rose early on the first *day* of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told *it* to the rest, *but* they did not believe them either.” We see that the first person to whom Jesus appeared was Mary Magdalene.

Mary went back to the tomb after the women told the disciples. She was still filled with sorrow, even though the angels had said Jesus had risen. John 20:15-17 says, “Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, ‘Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him, ‘Rabboni!’ (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.”’” Mary was filled with joy and returned to tell the disciples what Jesus had said to her.

The disciples did not believe Jesus had risen, even though the women had told them what the angel said. As a result, they were mourning and weeping. Mary told the disciples that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him. However, the disciples did not believe that Mary had really seen Jesus. Later in the day, Jesus appeared to two of the disciples who were returning to their home in Emmaus, which was located about seven miles from Jerusalem. Luke 24:13-32 tells about the time Jesus spent with these two disciples that day.

As they walked along the road, Jesus gave the two a short review of the Old Testament. Luke 24:27 says, “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Then, Luke 24:30-32 tells how Jesus revealed Himself to the two. Those verses say, “Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’” The two immediately returned to Jerusalem and told the other disciples, but the other disciples did not believe the two.

Mark 16:14-18 says, “Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their

unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.’” Jesus had to rebuke the disciples because of the fact they did not believe the witnesses who had seen Him. Jesus rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart.

Then, Jesus gave the disciples the commission to take the Gospel to every person in the world. That commission still applies to us today. There are many in the world who have not yet heard of the salvation that Jesus provided through His death and resurrection. Jesus said that He wanted every person to have the opportunity to hear that message so each one could make the choice to either receive or reject that message. Jesus promised that those who believe will be saved. Paul and Silas gave us an example of the power of that message, as Acts 16:30-31 says, “And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Jesus also warned that those who rejected that message would be condemned.

Jesus then gave the apostles signs to verify their message about His death and resurrection. Hebrews 2:3-4 says, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?” In Mark 16, we see that Jesus told the apostles about the signs He would give them to confirm their message about His resurrection.

Jesus said that they would cast out demons in His name. Acts 5:12 tells us, “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.” Then, Acts 19:11-12 says, “Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.”

God also exposed false teachers who tried to imitate the signs the apostles did so they could use those signs to make money. Acts 8:18-21 says, “And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.’” Then, Acts 19:14-16 says, “Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”

The apostles did cast out demons and heal the sick. Acts 5:16 says, “Also a multitude gathered

from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.” The disciples did speak with new languages. Acts 2:6-11 says, “And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” Here, we see that God gave them the ability to share the Gospel in languages they had never learned.

Paul was even bitten by a poisonous snake and suffered no harm. Acts 28:3-5 says, “But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid *them* on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, ‘No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.’ But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.” The purpose of all of these miracles was to verify the witness of the apostles about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The book of Mark concludes by showing us that the apostles were obedient and took the Gospel to people wherever they went. Mark 16:19-20 says, “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” First, we see that Romans 8:34 tells us what Jesus is doing in heaven right now, as that verse says, “Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Second, we see that the apostles were obedient and went and preached everywhere. God confirmed their message with the signs of the apostles. We want to continue to follow the example of the apostles and share the Gospel, wherever we go, until every person has heard the message of the Gospel. Paul told Timothy, in 2 Timothy 2:2, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” Then, Paul added, in 2 Timothy 4:5, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” We want to share that same message with our physical and spiritual children, and then show them, by our example, how to faithfully share that message with others until Jesus comes to take us to heaven. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to pass on the message of the Gospel to others.