

Jesus—John 20:26-31; 21:1-25

The Resurrected Jesus' 6th and 7th Appearances

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 20:26...** AFTER EIGHT DAYS—This would be the next first day of the week following the events of verses 19-23. "...here a precedent was set for regular meetings on the first day of the week to be continued throughout the dispensation soon to begin (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:1-2). The fact that the Lord honored it with his presence evidences the significance it had to the disciples and should have for all of us today" [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on the Gospel According to John*, p. 431].
- 20:27...** Consider Luke 24:39, where Jesus showed His hands and feet to all of the disciples. REACH HITHER—"He wanted them to touch him, to feel him, to be certain in their own minds that it was really Jesus - in his own flesh and blood body - that he was not a spirit being" [Harold Littrell, *A Commentary on the Gospel by John*, p. 222].
- 20:29...** BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET HAVE BELIEVED—"The latter category includes you and me - all who believe by hearing, not by seeing (John 20:30-31; Rom 10:17; Mk 16:15-16). We walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)" [Littrell, p. 223].
- 21:1...** SEA OF TIBERIAS—"The place was 'the sea of Tiberias,' deriving its name from the city of Tiberias which stood on its shores. It is more often alluded to as the sea of Galilee (Mt 4:18), and is sometimes called 'the lake of Genesaret' (Luke 5:1), and, in the Old Testament, 'the sea of Chinneroth' (Josh 12:3). It is approximately thirteen miles long, nine miles wide, from eighty to one hundred sixty feet deep and of a lovely blue cast beyond description. Through it the river Jordan flows and about it were nine cities, one of which was Capernaum, where the Lord lived during his public ministry. In its vicinity much of his teaching was done and it was in that area that many of his miracles were performed, of eighteen of the thirty-eight miracles recorded, ten of them were in the city of Capernaum" [Woods, p. 435].
- 21:14...** "It should be observed that John did not say that this was the third appearance of Jesus, but the third time he had 'manifested' himself 'to the disciples' (in a body), other appearances being to Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:16); to the women returning from the tomb of Jesus (Mt 28:9-10); to Peter alone (Lk 24:34), and to the two disciples enroute to Emmaus (Lk 24:13)" [Woods, p. 440].
- 21:15-19...** See Guy N. Woods' discussion of this conversation with Peter.

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Christ.**

III. Summary.

The verses of this reading give to us the record of Jesus' sixth and seventh post-resurrection appearances. Number six involved the apostles with Thomas present. Thomas was given opportunity to see the wounds Jesus had received from the crucifixion, and was told to feel the wounds (v. 29). His unbelief was turned to belief either by actually feeling the wounds or by seeing them. Jesus pronounces a blessing upon those who believe without actually seeing. In the last two verses of chapter twenty we find the purpose for John's record—to produce faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. In the seventh post-resurrection appearance, there are

seven of the apostles involved. Peter decides to go fishing. The other six decide to come along with him. They fish all night without any success. In the morning Jesus appears to them on the shore (they not being aware, at first, it was He) and tells them to cast the net on the right side of the boat. When the apostles did this, they caught an abundance of fish and we are even given the number: 153. The disciples go to shore and break the fast with fish and bread that Jesus had prepared. Next, Jesus has a conversation with Peter which most likely is designed to cause Peter to sorrow over and repent of the denial he had earlier foolishly spoken. Jesus tells Peter something of what lies ahead for Peter, even the manner of his death. When Peter asks Jesus about John’s death, Jesus does not tell, but mildly rebukes him. John closes his account of the life of Christ by pointing out that not all that Jesus did is recorded.

IV. Outline.

1. Jesus and Thomas (Jn 20:24-29).
2. The purpose of the book (Jn 20:30-31).
3. The appearance of Jesus to seven of the apostles (Jn 21:1-14).
4. Jesus questions Peter (Jn 21:15-19).
5. Jesus and John, the beloved disciple (Jn 21:20-25).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ The seven fishermen caught lots of fish from the right side of their boat.
02. _____ Jesus asked Peter five times if he loved Him.
03. _____ Peter was interested to know how John might die.
04. _____ John told Peter that John would not die.
05. _____ Peter and friends fished all night without catching any fish.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Jesus told Peter about something that would happen to him when: (a) he had preached for ten years; (b) when he went back to Jerusalem; (c) when he was old.
07. _____ John wrote about the miracles Jesus performed so that: (a) we might believe; (b) we might praise God; (c) we might be astonished.
08. _____ The suggestion to go fishing came from which of the disciples: (a) Peter; (b) James; (c) John; (d) Thomas; (e) Nathanael.
09. _____ The name PETER means rock, which name of Peter was NOT used by Jesus in His conversation with Peter: (a) Simon; (b) Peter.
10. _____ How far did the disciples have to drag the net full of fish: (a) about 500 yards; (b) about 250 yards; (c) about 100 yards.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “...Simon, son of _____, lovest thou me _____ these?”
12. “This spake he, _____ by what _____ he should _____ God.”
13. Thomas confessed Jesus as _____ and _____.
14. The five disciples (whose names we can determine) that went fishing together are: _____, _____, _____, _____, & _____.
15. “And there are also _____ other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be _____ every one, I suppose that even the _____ itself could not _____ the books that should be written.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

Teacher: David Lemmons

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ANSWERS to Lesson 02-109... [01—False, Mt 28:15; 02—True, Mt 28:2; 03—True, Mt 28:3; 04—True, Mk 16:3; 05—False, Mk 16:9; 06—b, Mk 16:7-10; 07—a, Mk 16:2; 08—a, Lk 24:8; 09—b, Jn 20:4; 10—c, Lk 24:12; 11—found, rolled, Lk 24:2; 12—Peter, ran, wondering, Lk 24:12; 13—very, great, Mk 16:4; 14—mourned, wept, Mk 16:10; 15—angel, Lord, Mt 28:2.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

- 1. Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side...** (Jn 20:27). Our Lord would have us to examine evidence and draw reasonable conclusions from that evidence. The “Law of Rationality” states: We should give to no proposition any more credence, belief, or acceptance than is absolutely demanded by the evidence. It is not offensive to our Lord, here, that Thomas wanted to see evidence (cf., Jn 20:25), but He openly welcomes Thomas to examine the abundant evidence. Today, we have the truth, we have nothing to fear from inquiring minds. We should always attempt to give a proper defense of that which we know to be true and welcome the questions that come from those who have not properly examined the evidence (1 Pet 3:15).
- 2. But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ...** (Jn 20:31). It is important for us to realize that there was a purpose for the miraculous powers that were used in the first century, including those signs done by Jesus. The purpose was for the production of faith. John warned in 1 John 4:1 that there were many false prophets in the world. Those false prophets would claim to be true prophets, of course, but there was a way to distinguish them and that was miraculous powers available to the apostles and those on whom they laid their hands.
- 3. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?...** (Jn 21:15-17). Jesus asks Peter if he loved Jesus more than the other disciples loved Jesus. That had been his claim at one time (Mark 14:29). Peter had denied Jesus three times and then had to face the LOOK that Jesus gave Him at the time (Lk 22:54-61). So three times he denied Jesus and now three times he would be asked to affirm his love of Jesus. Surely this examination if give Peter by our Lord for the benefit of Peter. It must have been therapeutic in nature. In the original, the first two times Jesus asks the question about Peter loving Him, Jesus is using AGAPAO and each time Peter answers with the term for love, PHILEO. The third time, Jesus asks Peter if he PHILEO-loves him. Brother Woods writes of this conversation: *“The time had now come for the restoration of Peter and the probing was designed to impress the wavering disciple with the need for more caution and less boasting of his strength in the hour of trial.”* This is a lesson from which all Christians can derive benefit (1 Cor 10:12).
- 4. ...This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God** (Jn 21:18-19). One thing this statement to Peter points out to us is that Peter never would have had the concept that the Lord’s second coming was IMMINENT. The Lord had told him that he would live to an old age and would die a death at the hands of others. He would know that the return of the Lord would not be in his own lifetime.
- 5. ...what is that to thee? Follow thou me** (Jn 21:22). There may be some things about which we are most curious and desirous of having an answer. However, if it has not been revealed in the Bible, we must simply do without that knowledge and count it as that which is unrevealed (Deut 29:29). Instead of worrying about that unrevealed knowledge, we must simply follow Jesus on the basis of that which HAS been revealed (2 Pet 1:3; Jude 3).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

E D C V F R B Q A Z X S W E D C V F R T
 G B N H Y U J E M K I L O R D Y H S N B
 G C H R I S T G N T E D C X S W Q O A Z
 X S W E D C V F R O T G B N H Y U N M J
 T G B V F R E D C X T X S W Q A Z O C D
 R B E L I E V I N G T F Y H N M J F U J
 R F V C D E W S X Z A Q A W S X C G V F
 R T G B N H Y U J M I K R I V F R O D C
 E R F V B G T Y T M U J M N T R F D V R
 T G B N H Y U J M A S Q A Z X H S W E D
 C N V F R T G B N N H Y U J M K L I O L
 P E E D C V F R G Y T G B N H Y U E I K
 T T E D C X S I Q A Z H A N D S B G S E
 D T C V F R S T G T B N H Y U J M U I S
 E I D C V R F R T H B D N H Y U J M K I
 F R W S E X C D E O R L F V G B G T Y E
 B W T H Q A Z X S M W O E D O V F R F T
 G T T B N H Y R E A C H U J D N H I R F
 V O X S W E D C V S T E Y H N V L E D C
 V N B G T Y H N M J U B I K T G E D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

John 20:27-31... ²⁷Then saith he to **Thomas**, **Reach** hither thy finger, and **behold** my **hands**; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and **be not faithless**, but **believing**. ²⁸And Thomas answered and said unto him, My **Lord** and my **God**. ²⁹Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.** ³⁰And **many other signs** truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are **not written** in this book: ³¹But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the **Christ**, the **Son of God**; and that believing ye might have **life** through his name.