

“They Saw The Lord”

Luke 24:36-46; John 20:19-29 [text: John 20:20, 25, 29]

Acts 1:3 says Jesus SHOWED Himself alive—**First**, to Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-16; Mk. 16:9-11). **Next**, to other women who visited the tomb (Mt. 28:8-10). **Thirdly**, to Peter privately (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5), **then** to Cleopas and his companion at Emmaus (Luke 24:30-32).

Picture the SCENE. It is the evening of Christ’s resurrection—first day of the week. The disciples are gathered in the “upper room” as Simon Peter testifies he has just seen the Lord (Luke 24:33-34). Then the Emmaus disciples return to testify they also saw Jesus (Luke 24:35)! **Suddenly** Jesus Himself appears from out of nowhere in the midst of them.

The shocked disciples thought they were seeing a “spirit” (Luke 24:36-37). To prove they were not seeing a “ghost,” Jesus showed them the nail prints on His hands, and ate some broiled fish and honey.

It was no “gaseous form of ectoplasm” that came out of the grave, as the J.W’s teach. Jesus is not a phantom or disembodied spirit. The Bible teaches the literal bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

➡ 5 things we learn from this appearance of Christ in the Upper Room.

I. The CONDITIONS of Christ’s coming.

- A. **He came** when the disciples were unprepared, fearful, and doubtful. Today many are unprepared for His coming, and some doubt He is coming.
- B. **He came** when they forgot His promise that they would see Him again (cf. John 14:18-19, 27-29; 16:16-22).
 - Today scoffers say, _____ ? (2 Pet. 3:4).
- C. **He came** when they were assembled together. There was still some cohesiveness among them. Thank God, there are still some who believe in assembling with other believers to exhort one another (Heb. 10:25).
- D. **He came** while some testified seeing Him. Amen! What a great time for the Lord to show up—During a testimony meeting!

II. The CENTRALITY of Christ' place (Luke 24:36; John 20:19).

➡ Jesus stood *"in the midst."* Jesus should be at the center of our lives, not on the fringe.

- A. Jesus walks "_____ of all our church does (Rev. 1:13; 2:1). Jesus should be in the middle of all we do—Our **planning... preaching... programs.**
- B. Jesus died _____ of sinners (John 19:18).
- C. Jesus sat "_____ of the synagogue asking and answering questions (Luke 2:46).
 - Take your hard questions to Jesus.
- D. Jesus promises be "_____ of our fellowship (Mt. 18:20).
- E. Jesus walks "_____ of our fiery trials (Dan. 3:25).
- F. Jesus pronounces peace "_____ of our perplexities (Luke 24:36; John 20:19-20).

III. The CONFERRING of Christ's peace (John 20:21).

Peace is not based on our outward circumstances. It is based on the PERSON of Christ.

- John 16:33— _____, **IN ME**

- A. It CALMED their fears (cf. John 19:19-20).
 - John 14:27—**Peace I leave with you, MY PEACE I give unto you:** _____, _____.
 - No need to fear when Jesus is in your life (2 Tim. 1:7). Those who lack peace have lost the sense of Christ's presence in their life. They are more focused on what is going on around them than the Lord "_____ of them.
 - Inner peace should characterize the life of a believer. It is part of the **fruit of the Spirit**. Every epistle bearing Paul's name begins with a **salutation of peace**.
- B. It CANCELED their guilt. Jesus first word to them— **▲ !** He did not rebuke them for fleeing in fear at His arrest. "

"(Ps. 103:10).

C. It CLEARED their doubts (John 20:20). Peace and doubt don't mix.

IV. The COMPOSITION of Christ's body (Luke 24:37-43; John 20:20).

➔ Jesus' resurrection body was different than His body before His crucifixion. Mark 16:12 says,

➔ The characteristics of His resurrection body is a PREVIEW of the new body we will receive at His coming.

- *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...* (Phil. 3:20-21).
we shall be like him;
." (1 John 3:2).

A little boy asked his mother, "Momma, when daddy gets to heaven, will he still have whiskers?" His mother answered, "I don't think so, because if you daddy gets to heaven, it will be by a close shave!"

- A. TANGIBLE (flesh and bones, but no blood). Still bore the nail prints on His hands and scar in His side.
- Capacity to eat and enjoy food without indigestion, elimination, or gaining weight (Luke 24:30). Jesus ate MEAT—He was no vegetarian.
- B. SUPERNATURAL—Not limited by natural laws (Luke 24:31, 39). He could pass through solid objects by miraculously changing His molecular structure to match that of solid objects. This made Him capable of passing through grave clothes, stones, closed doors (John 20:19).
- C. SPIRITUAL— Disappear and reappear at will (Luke 24:31, 36)
- Travel faster than the speed of light—186,000 miles per second (John 20:17 cf. Matt. 28:9)

- D. INCORRUPTIBLE (1 Cor. 15:42). No decay; no sickness; no weariness—Never get tired.

Bob Hope: "Today my heart beat 103,369 times; my blood traveled 168 million miles; I breathed 23,400 times; I inhaled 438 cubic feet of air; I ate 3 pounds of food; I gave off 85.3 degrees of heat; I spoke 4,800 words; I moved 750 major muscles; and I exercised 7 million brain cells. No wonder I'm so tired."

- E. IMMORTAL (1 Cor. 15:50-56); Never die.

- Actor Charles Dutton was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years in prison. While in prison he noted, "Unlike the other prisoners, I never decorated my cell." Why? He knew his residence in a prison cell was only temporary. He never regarded his prison cell his home. We who are Christians must not accommodate ourselves to this world. This world is not our home, so don't get too comfortable here.

SUMMATION: If you are a Christian, are you accommodating yourself to this world? Are you embellishing your life with the things of this world knowing it is not your home?

- Are you ready for His coming, or will He come and find you unprepared?
- Is Jesus at the center of all you do, or He only on the "fringes" of your life? Do you treat Him as someone you think about only on Sunday, or is He in your thoughts and actions seven days a week?
- Is your life characterized by a peace that passes all understanding, or are you worried... fearful... stressed about the things going on around you?