

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Fourteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

Scripture reading: John 20:19-29

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus was raised from the dead with a resurrected body that could be seen and touched, yet He could also mysteriously disappear. Sometimes the disciples could see Him, sometimes they could not. He did not want them to believe He was with them simply because they saw Him. He wanted them to believe because of faith. Today, although we do not see Him, He is always with us, and has promised to be with us until the end of this age (Matt. 28:20). After we believe in Him and He lives in us, we must enjoy and practice knowing Him in His invisible presence.

Memory Verse: "Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, you have believed, Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29).

Facts to Teach:

1. Before His crucifixion the Lord told His disciples that He would only remain in death for three days and that He would then be raised from the dead. But none of the disciples understood what He was talking about (John 20:9).
2. Even though on the morning of the third day, the Lord appeared to Mary (John 20:14) and other women (Matt. 28:9), when they told this to the Apostles they did not believe them. They thought they must be crazy (Luke 24:11).
3. However, in the evening when all the disciples were gathered together behind shut doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst (John 20:19). He breathed into them the Holy Spirit. By doing this He came into them as the life-giving Spirit to live within them, as He had promised them on the night before His crucifixion (John 14:17-20).
4. One apostle was missing that night, Thomas. When the other ten apostles told him that they had seen the Lord he would not believe them. He said, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will by no means believe."
5. Eight days later, when they were gathered together again, Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared to them again in the room, and had a special talk with Thomas. He had been there invisibly and had heard every word Thomas had said in unbelief when the apostles testified to him about Jesus' resurrection. Jesus said to Thomas, "Bring your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and be not unbelieving, but believing."
6. Thomas was overwhelmed by the reality that was standing before his very eyes. The Lord Jesus had truly risen from among the dead! He said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"
7. Jesus told Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."
8. We are much more blessed than Thomas, because we have never seen Jesus with our eyes, or touched Him with our hands, but we believe in Him and even more, we love Him (1 Pet. 1:8).
9. Jesus appeared to His disciples and disappeared again many, many times for a total of forty days (Acts 1:3); over a whole month! One time He appeared at the beach when they were fishing (John 21) and another time He was with them at the mountain (Matt. 28:16). On another occasion, when more than five hundred brothers and sisters were meeting together, He appeared to them (1 Cor. 15:6).
10. In this way, the Lord Jesus trained His disciples to know that He was always with them. Whether He was visible or invisible, He was there with them. Now, although the Lord remains with us in an invisible way, His presence is always with us.

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Songs for Lesson Fourteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

Hymns, #639.

 D G D
Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
G D E A⁷
The life of God eternal manifest;
D ⁷ G Em
'Tis uncreated, indestructible,
A D A⁷ D
'Tis Christ Himself, unconqu' rable, expressed

Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
All of God's fullness it will manifest;
God's righteousness and holiness it yields,
His glorious image by it is expressed.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for Lesson 14)

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS (2)

Memory verse: Jesus said to him (Thomas), Because you have seen Me, you have believed, Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.
John 20:29

When our Lord Jesus was living here on earth as the Son of Mary and the Son of God, His Father God had prepared for Him a body of flesh and blood to take Him through this life, the cross and death, then after 3 days the Lord arose from the dead. He neatly folded His grave-clothes and came out from death and the grave. He arose with a glorified body, a body of wonder. During the forty days after the Lord's resurrection He led His followers into this amazing discovery.

As our Lord Jesus came out of the tomb, do you think the stone had been rolled away? If you say, "Yes", or "No", it makes no difference at all. But, to Mary and the women who were coming with spices, it made a big difference to have that large rock rolled away. Earlier, still in the dark, there was a great earthquake and the angel of the Lord came down and rolled back the stone, and sat on it. His face was as lightning and fear shook the soldiers and they fell back as dead men. The women could now look inside the grave. Two angels in white told them that the Lord was risen, as He had told them He would. Overwhelmed with excitement they ran to tell Peter and John, who came and saw for themselves and then left again.

But Mary stayed. Love had brought her while it was still dark. knowing that soldiers were guarding the grave did not stop her; nor did the Roman seal upon the stone at the entrance to the tomb keep her from her plan to put sweet smelling spices on her Lord's body. To do this, however, was neither reasonable nor even possible. Because of her love she was led by blind faith. Although Peter and John saw the empty tomb and left the garden Mary lingered there. How could she leave? Where could she go! She stood there weeping. The Lord Jesus was standing close by her. Although she saw Him she did not know who He was. Supposing He was the gardner, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him hence, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away." Her eyes did not recognize Him but her ear could not be mistaken: that was the voice of Jesus who answer her and called her name! As Mary was standing there and waiting so also was Jesus. He was waiting for the response from Mary that would

satisfy heart. She said it! "Master"! (Lord!) Rabboni, in her language. She reached out. She wanted to hold Him; but He explained why she could not yet--

He must first go to His Father. Meanwhile, she should go to His brethren (the other disciples) and tell them about Him. Although she did what He told her, they would not believe her. But to her, the believing one, she had won for herself the highest honor possible. She was the first one to see her Lord in resurrection and the first to carry out His commission to tell others about Himself and how He had risen from the dead. What a shame to the disciples that they did not believe! The Lord Jesus remained forty days longer with the disciples and showed Himself to them in a new form, so available for them and for us all.

Later, that same evening, the disciples met together. Mark records that they mourned and wept. For fear of the Jews they shut the doors. Because they did not believe, they were troubled and confused. What a sad meeting! They had no hope. They felt like sheep away from the shepherd. Then Jesus Himself came and stood among them. He comforted them and gave them His peace. He showed them His hands and His side. What a comfort! And they were glad! Then He did that amazing and wonderful thing. He breathed upon them. In doing this He breathed Himself into them, giving them Himself. He would never, never leave them again. We read, "Then were they filled with joy." Here the mercy of God overflowed their and washed all their sorrow away. Not only that, here was this great Mystery. God, as Jesus, had come down to earth from above, to a lost world. His whole life and death was for this ~~one~~ plan: that He might enlarge Himself, by putting Himself into us. Then He, the Triune God, Jesus, could live in each one of us and would never, never leave us.

It was too bad that one of the Lord's chosen disciples (Thomas) was not with them that night when Jesus appeared to Them.

Nothing could ~~ever make~~ up to Him what He had missed! When they told him what had happened, he did not believe. He did not see or understand how the Lord could come through closed doors. He even said that he would not believe unless he could put his fingers into the nail-prints in the Lord's hands and thrust his hand into the Lord's side (the wound where the soldier's spear had pierced Him). Neither did he understand that the Lord was right there listening while he was speaking.

Eight days later, a full week, the disciples met together again. This time Thomas did not miss the meeting. He would see for himself. They were in the upper room again and the Lord showed Himself. Jesus spoke personally to Thomas, telling him to put his fingers into the mark of the nails in His hands and to put his hand into His side. Thomas could only say, "My Lord and my God!" We do not read that he reached out. He did not need to. Then Jesus said to him. "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." We are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Although our eyes have never seen His resurrected body, yet we believe in Him, we receive Him as the Spirit, we love Him and follow Him. How truly blessed we are!