

Study #53
APPEARING TO THE DISCIPLES
John 20:19-31

John's Purpose Statement:

John 20:30-31—³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

 **REVIEW**

John 20:1-10 Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene *came early to the tomb, while it *was still dark, and *saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb. ²So she *ran and *came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and *said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵and stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. ⁶And so Simon Peter also *came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he *saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

1. What did John and Peter believe?

2. What did they still not understand?

Luke 24:8-12 ⁸And they remembered His words, ⁹and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. ¹¹But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

1. What women do we know were there?

2. Who did they report these things to?

3. What did the apostles think of what the women were saying?
4. What did Peter do?
5. What do you think Peter was marveling at?

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Read the following verses and answer the questions.

John 20:19-23

¹⁹ So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained."

1. When did this occur?
2. Where were they and who was present?
3. Who were they afraid of and why?
4. In verses 19-20 what happened and how did the disciples respond?
5. In verse 21 what does Jesus say to them?
6. What happened in verse 22?
7. According to John 14:26 who will send the Holy Spirit?
8. What does Jesus say in Luke 24:49?
9. What does Jesus say in verse 23 that the disciples will be able to do?
10. Who can forgive sins? (Mark 2:7, Daniel 9:9, Acts 13:38)
11. According to Acts 10:40-43 what were the disciples ordered to preach regarding forgiveness?

Read through the following verses to help you understand why God the Father sent Jesus to earth and why Jesus sent out the disciples.

John 3:17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 17:3 ³ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 17:25-26 ²⁵ "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15 ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Read these additional verses on the Holy Spirit. What were Jesus' instructions concerning the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Luke 24:49 ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1:4-8 ⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Read through the following verses. How are our sins forgiven? When are a person's sins not forgiven?

Mark 2:7

⁷ "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Daniel 9:9

⁹ To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him;

Acts 13:38 ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Acts 10:40-43⁴⁰ God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

John 8:24 ²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.

John 20:24-29 ²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

²⁶ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus *came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁷ Then He *said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus *said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and yet believed."

1. What did Thomas say he would not do in vs. 25?
2. Do you think Jesus came back specifically to interact with Thomas or do you believe it was just by chance that he returned and Thomas was there?
3. What is the significance of Thomas' statement, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:30-31 ³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

1. What was John's purpose for writing **The Gospel According to John**?
2. What is the result of believing?

TEACHING NOTES

1. **Jesus and the Disciples (20:19-20)**
2. **The Commission**
3. **The Holy Spirit**
4. **Forgiveness**
5. **Thomas**
6. **Believe**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

John 20:30-31 ³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

1 John 1:9 ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 10:10 ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

1. According to John 20:30-31 what should we believe?
2. What does it mean to have life in Jesus' name?
3. In dealing with sin what does 1John 1:9 say is our part and what is Christ part?
4. How should our lives look if we believe in Jesus (John 10:10)?
5. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

NEXT WEEK: John 21:1-14