

Resurrection Appearances – 3:-

We continue from last week, where the two disciples recognised the Lord Jesus as He broke bread when He shared supper with them in Emmaus. We find Cleopas and his companion hastening back the 7 miles to Jerusalem to report the event to the rest of the disciples. (Luke 24, 32-35).

The order of the Resurrection Appearances from then on may possibly be as follows:-

- Jesus appears to the disciples (Luke 24, vs.33-49) - in John 20, vs.19-25 Thomas is missing.
- Jesus appears to all eleven disciples—Thomas included. (John 20, vs.26-31)
- Jesus appears to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee. (John 21, vs.1-25)
- Jesus appears to about 500 disciples in Galilee. (1 Corinthians 15, v.6)
- Jesus appears to his half-brother James. (1 Corinthians 15, v.7)
- Jesus commissions his disciples. (Matthew 28, vs.16-20)
- Jesus ascends into heaven. (Luke 24, vs.44 -53: Acts 1, vs.6-12)

Taking them in order:-

Read Luke chapter 24, verses 36 – 43 and John chapter 20, verses 19 – 25:-

Cleopas and his companion arrive back in Jerusalem from Emmaus to find that the disciples gathered there have already had news of the Resurrection from Simon Peter. (Luke 24, verse 34). The two from Emmaus then share their experience and while they are doing so the Lord Jesus himself appears among them. Note that these verses in Luke's Gospel are probably a conflated account of at least the two of the appearances recorded by John. Thomas is absent from the first meeting and unconvinced of the reality of the Lord's resurrection. (John chapter 20, verses 19 – 31). In the Gospel of John, this occasion is a commissioning of the disciples with a mandate to forgive or retain sins. (verses 22-23).

Note also that the author of one of the endings of the Gospel of Mark knew the accounts of both these Gospels. See Mark chapter 16, verses 12 – 16. These verses are often printed in the margin or in italics as they do not appear in many ancient texts of the Greek New Testament.

Eight days later Jesus appears again to the disciples in the room.

Read John chapter 20, verses 26 – 31:-

Note that the Lord Jesus knows that Thomas has doubts about the reality of the resurrection and offers certain proof that His corporate presence is real. Thomas straight-away makes his declaration of faith, acknowledging Jesus as “*My Lord and my God*” (verse 28). The Lord Jesus then follows it with an encouragement to those of us who still have not seen. The ‘blessedness’ of belief is really to those who believe, not to those who see! This still holds good for those of us today. We are the ones, along with ‘Doubting Thomas’ spoken to by our Lord Jesus Christ. - Compare with 1 Peter chapter 1, verses 8 – 9.

Not seeing but believing we can join in the Easter proclamation -

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Alleluia, Alleluia!
Hearts to Heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.*

*Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born,
Glorious life, and life immortal,
on the holy Easter morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer
by His mighty enterprise:
We with Him to life eternal
by His resurrection rise.*

Christopher Wordsworth 1865