

Resurrection Appearances – 4:-

- Jesus appears to about 500 disciples. (1 Corinthians 15, v.6)
- Jesus appears to James. (1 Corinthians 15, v.7)
- Jesus appears to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee. (John 21, vs.1-25)
- Jesus commissions his disciples. (Matthew 28, vs.16-20)
- Jesus ascends into heaven. (Luke 24, vs.44 -53: Acts 1, vs.6-12)

Appearances in Galilee -

Read 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verses 1 – 8:-

A reminder that we do not know how many times the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to the disciples after the resurrection. Alongside the appearances in the Gospels this list is used by Paul as a testimony to the reality of the resurrection. Any doubters could ask for an eyewitness account from one of the 500 “*most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep,*”. This could have been in Galilee, where the Lord Jesus had spent the greater part of his public ministry, and where he had made most disciples. The place, however, is not designated. There is a hint in Matthew 28, verses 7 and 10, which may refer to this passage. The angel said to the women “. . . *behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him*”. (Matthew 28, verse 7). After his resurrection, Jesus said to the women who were at the sepulchre, “*go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.*” (Matthew 28, verse 10). One thing is proved by this, that the Lord Jesus had many more disciples than those recorded in the Gospels. If there were five hundred who could be assembled at once in a single part of the land where he had preached, there could have been many more in other parts of Judea.

Notice the special mention by Paul of the appearance of the risen Lord Jesus to James who became the leader of the church in Jerusalem – see Acts chapter 15, verses 12 – 21.

Read the Gospel of John, chapter 21, verses 1 – 25:-

This is the familiar passage of the encounter of the disciples with the Lord Jesus Christ by the Sea of Galilee (Tiberias). Those named were all connected with the fishing community and it is Peter who, perhaps impatient at having nothing to do says “*I am going fishing*”. The others immediately join him and spend all night without making a catch.

As they return towards the shore the Lord Jesus appears standing on the beach. He asks the usual question to fishermen “*Lads, have you any fish?*” - verse 5. It may even have been phrased “*you haven’t any fish, have you!*”. (Note that the Lord provided fish and bread for their breakfast.) Again the Lord Jesus shows that He is Lord of nature. Following the instructions of a village carpenter, the professional fishermen make an exceptional catch. (Compare with the Gospel of Luke chapter 5, verses 1- 10).

The dialogue with Peter follows. A three-fold restoration as his earlier denial of the Lord was three-fold. As Peter obeys the command of the Lord Jesus “*Follow me.*” he turns to see John also following. A very human question “*Lord, what about him?*”. The answer is simply “None of your business!” “*You, follow me!*” (verse 22).

As we seek to follow the Master, remember – **Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Hark, my soul, it is the Lord.
’tis thy Saviour, hear his word;
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,
“Say, poor sinner, lov’st thou me?”*

*Lord, it is my chief complaint
that my love is weak and faint;
yet I love thee, and adore;
O for grace to love thee more!*

William Cowper 1731 – 1800