

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How important is it for us that Jesus appeared to His followers after His resurrection?
2. Would more people believe today if Jesus would present His body?
3. Would more believe if Christians would perform miracles of healing, etc., as were done in the early church?
4. Why were the Jewish leaders not given the opportunity to see Christ? Do you think they would have believed?
5. How can we learn to believe without always “seeing”?

### SUMMARY:

Since Thomas openly refused to believe that Jesus had been resurrected except that he see and feel Jesus’ hands and side, one might think that it would be very difficult to convince him of Christ’s resurrection. However, he readily believed when Jesus appeared and accepted Thomas’ challenge to touch His hands and side. Thomas needed more evidence than just the testimony of the other disciples.

The experience of Thomas shows how God willingly reveals Himself to one of an upright heart. This should be an encouragement to unbelievers, and to believers who have doubts, to seek the Lord in prayer and through His Word.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

June 16, 2012

Second Quarter

### CHRIST APPEARS TO HIS FOLLOWERS

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**LESSON TEXT:** *John 20:19-31*

**LESSON SETTING:** In Jerusalem, the first Sunday evening after the resurrection.

**TIME:** Approximately 33 A.D.

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**I. ASSURANCE FOR DISCIPLES.** John 20:19-23

- A. Seeing the Lord (vs. 20) Hebrews 12:14
- B. Jesus Gives Peace (vs. 21, 26) Luke 1:78-79; Romans 14:17

**II. ASSURANCE FOR A DOUBTER.** John 20:24-29

- A. Unrealized Power (vs. 25) Mark 15:31; John 11:37
- B. Divine Demonstration (vs. 27) Matthew 27:54; Mark 2:10-11

**III. ASSURANCE FOR ALL BELIEVERS.** John 20:30-31

- A. Miracles Testify (vs. 30) John 10:25
- B. Proclamation of the Word (vs. 31)
- C. Aids to Believe. John 14:29; 19:35; 1 John 1:1-3
- D. I Am the Resurrection and the Life. John 11:25-26

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN, THAT YE MIGHT BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD; AND THAT BELIEVING YE MIGHT HAVE LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME.*

John 20:31

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** John 21:1-14

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** 1 Kings 19:1-19; Luke 5:1-11

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Christ, the Son of God

**TOPIC:** CHRIST MINISTERS TO HIS DISCIPLES

**INTRODUCTION:**

Peter, the leader, announced his intention to go fishing. Possibly restlessness accounted for the willingness of the other six disciples to accompany him into the old occupation. This episode occurred in the interim between the crucifixion and the receiving of the new power at Pentecost. After a fruitless night of toil, the day broke. Jesus was waiting for His disciples on the beach. They were on the restless water. He had a hot meal ready. They had an empty net. At His command, they obeyed and an unexpected and overwhelming abundance resulted. John was the first to recognize the Lord, but Peter was the first to act. Impulsively he cast himself into the sea to hurry to the Master. Not only had Jesus prepared the meal, He also served them. He may have wanted to assure them that He was the same Jesus they had known before His crucifixion and resurrection, and that personal contact with Him was still possible. This was never to be a forgotten occasion to renew the faith and purpose of His chosen men. “. . . I have chosen you and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit . . .”

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Christ's presence turns failure into success.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD.*

Matthew 28:20

Because our Lord Jesus added the phrase “even unto the end of the world” this is a wonderfully meaningful promise to us in this time of sin and growing apostasy. The final stage is being set for the forming of the great world church prophesied so long ago. We are now living in the times of increasing iniquity and lawlessness, the perilous times, when love grows cold. Offenses abound and faith becomes weak. But events in Israel are assuring us that the end of this age is near. The spread of the Word to the last corners of the earth by faithful and consecrated workers also assures us that the end time is at hand.

And Christ is still with us. He said this to His disciples and He is telling us today. Let us rejoice!

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 17 – 23**

- M. God Ministers to His People. Exodus 15:22-27
- T. Christ Ministers to His Disciples. Luke 5:1-11
- W. Ministering to the Unregenerate Man. John 3:1-11
- T. Ministering by His Spirit. John 14:25-31
- F. \*Ministering to Physical Needs. John 21:1-6
- S. \*Ministering to the Natural Man. John 21:7-14
- S. A Perpetual Ministry. Hebrews 13:1-8

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