

John 20:24-21:19 – The Resurrected Christ

The angels said to the women who came to the tomb, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen as he said”. Luke 24:5b, Matthew 28:6a We serve a risen Savior! Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of his resurrection. They were glad to see Jesus but I wonder how much they understood at that time. So much had happened in a short amount of time and they were on a roller coaster of emotions. In the verse before the Great Commission, Matthew 28:17 says “And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.” In John 20:24, we learn that there was one disciple who was not with the others when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection.

Read John 20:24-29.

Thomas, Didymus / the Twin, was the one who was not with the other disciples when the resurrected Christ first revealed himself to the others. How did Thomas respond when the other disciples told him that they had seen Jesus? Why do you think Thomas responded in this way? Have you ever talked to people who, like Thomas, need proof before they believe? Is it reasonable for someone to demand proof before they believe? (20:24-25)

What happened eight days after Thomas missed out on seeing Jesus? It was like deja vu all over again except this time Thomas was there. What did Jesus say to “Doubting” Thomas? Did Thomas put his finger in Jesus’ hands or place his hand in Jesus’ side? What did Thomas say to Jesus? What is the significance of his statement? How did Jesus respond to Thomas’ profession of faith? (20:26-29)

What did Jesus say about those who do not see and yet believe? Who is included in this blessing? (20:29)

Read John 20:30-31.

What signs did John include in the Gospel of John? How many signs did Jesus perform during his time on earth? (20:30)

Why did John write the Gospel of John? (20:31)

Read John 21:1-14.

In chapter 21, where were the disciples? Why were they there? Which disciples were mentioned? What were the disciples doing? Why were they doing this? Were they successful? (21:1-3)

What did Jesus say to the disciples while they were in the boat? What happened when they listened to Jesus? Who first realized that it was Jesus? How did Peter react when he heard that it was Jesus on the shore? Why did Peter react this way? What did the other disciples do? (21:4-8) Does this fishing incident remind you of an earlier encounter which some of these disciples had with Jesus? (Luke 5:1-11)

When all the disciple went to where Jesus was they saw a charcoal fire. When was the last time John mentioned a charcoal fire? Describe the breakfast that the disciples shared with Jesus. John likes the numbers 3 and 7. John noted that this appearance by the Sea of Galilee was Jesus' third appearance to the disciples.

Read John 21:15-19.

Why did Jesus single out Peter to ask him some pointed questions? Why did John include this interaction between Jesus and Peter?

What did Jesus ask Peter about their relationship? How many times did Jesus ask Peter the same question about their relationship? What is the significance of the number of times Jesus asked Peter this question? What responsibility did Jesus give to Peter? Is there any significance to the variations in what Jesus asked Peter? (21:15-17)

Peter did not lay down his life for Jesus before Jesus was crucified but what did Jesus say would happen to Peter when he was older? (21:18-19a)

What final command did Jesus give to Peter? What can we learn from Peter? What does the example of Peter have to teach those who have fallen down on the path of following Christ? (21:19b)