



## Lesson Eleven – August 11, 2020 (final lesson in this series)

### *The Resurrected Jesus and the Ascension*

*Acts 1:1-3:* In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

We are told that Jesus presented himself alive to his apostles whom he had chosen during forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. The ones we are told about are:

1. Mary Magdalene.

*John 20:14-16:* At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

2. Mary the mother of James, Salome, and Joanna.

*Matthew 28:9:* Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

3. Peter is the first of the apostles to see the risen Christ.

*Luke 24:33-34: They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together<sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."*

4. Later Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

*Luke 24:13-16: Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.*

5. To the disciples – absent Thomas – on the day of resurrection.

*John 20:19-20,24: <sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

6. Eight days later He appeared again to the disciples - this time with Thomas present.

*John 20:26-28: A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

7. Another appearance was to seven disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

*John 21:1-2: Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus),*

*Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.*

8. There is also the account of Jesus appearing before His eleven disciples in Galilee.  
*Matthew 28:16-17: Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.*
  
9. On another occasion, Jesus appeared to over five hundred people at one time.  
*1 Corinthians 15:6: After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*
  
10. Scripture also says that Jesus appeared to His half-brother James.  
*1 Corinthians 15:7: Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*

Why did he limit his appearances to just his close friends?

The time between the resurrection and ascension for Jesus was all about preparing his disciples for the role they must play in the birth of the early Church.

QUESTION: How different would the world be had Jesus not risen from the dead?

What would the disciples do?

### The Ascension

There were forty days between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension. Jesus' plan all along was to stay long enough to gather around him followers who could carry the message to others.

How did Jesus feel about the Ascension?

*John 17:4-5: <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to*

do.<sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

*John 16:1* – “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.

*John 16:28:* <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

### Only two of the Gospels tell us about the ascension:

*Mark 16:19-20:* <sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

*Luke 24:50-52:* <sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

*Acts 1:4-11:* <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

### The Ascension

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

*<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

### How is it that we today know about Jesus?

Notice the question the disciples asked Jesus just before his ascension:

*“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

They are still hoping for an earthly kingdom.

Imagine the disciples' confusion when Jesus just goes away.

Would it be better if the ascension had never happened?

(all Scripture verses from NIV version)

The Christian Working Woman .  
205 N Washington St . Wheaton IL 60187-5314  
630.462.0552 . christianworkingwoman.org . tcww@christianworkingwoman.org