



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #338
Jesus' Resurrection and Eternal Ministry

The Five Resurrection Appearances of Jesus on Easter Sunday

Jesus' Fourth Resurrection Appearance: To the Apostle Peter... in Private
Luke 24.33-34; I Cor. 15.3-5

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33 They (the two disciples) got up and returned immediately to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those with them gathered together there. 34 They were saying,

“It is true! The Lord has risen, and appeared to Peter.”

Paul's Witness in I Cor. 15.3-5

3 For I delivered to you as of the highest importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 **and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter)**, and to the Twelve.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Somewhere in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	The Resurrection and 40 Day Ministry of Jesus
	The Five Resurrection Appearances of Jesus on Easter Sunday
Title:	Jesus' 4th Resurrection Appearance: To the Apostle Peter... in Private

Today's reading describes the reality of the fourth resurrection appearance of Jesus, but gives us none of the details. It probably occurred immediately after Jesus disappeared from before the eyes of Cleopas and his companion, as they rushed back to Jerusalem.

If Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and the faithful women first, because of their love and obedience, he appeared to Peter because he was the most broken and contrite in spirit. Peter had the deepest need of seeing Jesus face to face of all the disciples, for his failure in denying Jesus before the cross was the most profound.

Jesus' restoration of Peter to the place of premier leadership in the early church is one of the most encouraging, grace-filled narratives in the Scriptures. Jesus has prayed for Peter's faith not to fail him in the days and weeks leading up to his death (LK 22.31-32; see DJN #284). He knew Peter would publicly deny him three times, and how this failure would crush Peter's pride and self-confidence under an avalanche of remorse and self-recrimination.

For all of Peter's brash impulsiveness, and natural charisma and leadership, he struggled with his self-image, too. If Jesus was not the loving Lord who always knows how to turn defeat into glorious victory and growth, Peter's failure could have destroyed him.

Jesus had looked Peter directly in the eyes just after he had finished denying for the third time during the second phase of the Jewish trial at Caiaphas's house. We can surmise that his eyes were not condemning, but filled with compassion and hope for Peter. It was the first step in restoring him, for it reminded him of Jesus' word that predicted his failure. What was so horrible for Peter was no surprise for Jesus. In fact, Jesus had commanded Peter to **"strengthen his brothers"** after he was restored. This word encouraged Peter that his failure was not the end.

Then, Jesus had instructed the Angel who announced Jesus' resurrection to the women in the empty Tomb to **"go tell his disciples and Peter..."** By singling Peter out in this way Jesus was reminding his broken servant that he was still loved unconditionally. Peter had denied knowing Jesus, but the Lord would never turn his back on his servant. Jesus still called Peter his own, and related to him accordingly.

The sight of the linen cloths that had fallen gently down to the stone slab after Jesus' body had passed through them also encouraged Peter that Jesus was alive. Peter could not take it all in yet, but he left the empty tomb with his mind swirling with the hope that Jesus must somehow be alive again, and that his prayers on the cross to forgive those who **"did not know what they were doing"** must have covered Peter, too.

After all, Peter had made many other mistakes in the past, including rebuking Jesus in error regarding his death, and his Lord had forgiven him and taught him to learn from his mistakes every time.

Now, sometime late in the afternoon, Jesus appeared to Peter alone. This shows us that Peter was spending time alone thinking about the incredible events of that morning. We do not know what the risen Lord said to Peter, but we do know that he forgave him privately, and renewed his fellowship and love for his aching servant.

Now that Peter's self-confidence and self-reliance was shattered, Jesus' training and preparation of him to be an evangelist to his fellow Jews, church-planter, elder, disciple-

maker, and writer of Scripture was complete. Jesus was teaching Peter the same lesson he taught Paul...to rejoice in his own failures and weaknesses. As Paul testified:

"And he (Jesus) said to me: **'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'** Most gladly therefore, I would rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me." II Cor. 12.9

One more step in the restoration journey for Peter remained. Jesus had forgiven, renewed and restored Peter privately. Later on, in his seventh resurrection appearance, Jesus would complete the process by publicly restoring Peter to his appointed place of leadership in the early church.

APPLICATION:

The fourth resurrection appearance is a powerful encouragement to us all. Because Jesus rose from the dead, his grace is sufficient for us, too, for his resurrection power is perfected in our weaknesses, not our strengths. Every mistake and failure of our lives is intended by Jesus to be a temporary stepping stone to new vistas of dependance and victory in him, as we learn ever deeper lessons in how weak we are in ourselves. His sufficiency and power infill us in that very realization.

What weaknesses and failures do you need to boast in today, because of Jesus' resurrection power working in you?

How is Jesus working in you now to teach you about your own weakness, as a gateway to his power?