



## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #339 Jesus' Resurrection and Eternal Ministry

### The Five Resurrection Appearances of Jesus on Easter Sunday

#### Jesus' Fifth Resurrection Appearance: To the Apostles in the Upper Room Lk 24.35-49 (Parallel Text: JN 20.19-23)

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<sup>J</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. <sup>35</sup> <sup>L</sup>The two told what had happened on the way (to Emmaus) , and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. <sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself <sup>J</sup>came and <sup>L</sup>stood in the midst of them and said to them,

*"Peace be with you."*

<sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them,

*"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! I command you to touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."*

<sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet <sup>J</sup>and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>41</sup> <sup>L</sup>And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them,

*"Do you have anything here to eat?"*

<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> <sup>J</sup>Again Jesus said to them, *"Peace be with you. <sup>L</sup>This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them,

*"This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things."*

<sup>49</sup> *"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but I command you to stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. <sup>J</sup>As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

And with that he breathed on them and said, *"I command you to receive the Holy Spirit. If you cause anyone's sins to be forgiven, they will be forgiven. If you do not cause them to be forgiven, they will not be forgiven."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. 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	The Upper Room 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' 5th Resurrection Appearance: To the Apostles in the Upper Room

Jesus' fifth resurrection appearance to the apostles (minus Thomas) and the other disciples gathered in the other room capped off the most spectacular day of ministry in Jesus' days on earth.

These five consecutive appearances in one day made the disciples call the first day of the week--our "Sunday"--by a new name: the "Lord's Day," because he filled it from beginning to end with non-stop revelations of his glorious, risen presence. It was a day like none other in the history of the world.

Jesus' next appearance would be a week later, also on "the Lord's Day." Six out of eleven resurrection appearances occurred on the Lord's Day. This fact went a long way in establishing Sunday as the day of worship for Christians, in which we celebrate his resurrection, and living, risen presence with us that never ends. This shift in the weekly day of worship from Saturday (for Jews) to Sunday for Christians is one of the strongest historical evidences for the resurrection. If Jesus did not rise from the dead on Sunday, there was no reason to change the divinely mandated day of worship in Judaism.

The disciples were gathered in fear, with the doors locked shut. They were probably speaking in whispers or quiet tones, for they were in hiding. They were also abuzz with the news of Jesus' appearances to Mary Magdalene, the women, and Peter. A strange mixture of fear and excitement filled them.

Then, as the two men who had fellowshiped with Jesus on the road to Emmaus arrived and shared their witness, Jesus came-- the locked doors could not keep his resurrection body out--and suddenly appeared in the midst of them--the central place. In that instant everything changed for this core group of 120 disciples that had followed Jesus up from Galilee for his later Judean and Perea ministries. The lesson: Jesus reveals his living presence with us when we speak of him in witness, prayer and praise.

This was Jesus' first appearance to the whole gathered "church" (the 120) who were in that same room fifty days later on the day of Pentecost. Jesus' first word was: **"Peace be with you."** They needed peace, for they were shocked by his sudden appearance.

Luke spoke of the way Jesus gave *"many convincing proofs that he was alive"* (Acts 1.3) over the forty days of that followed his resurrection. This encounter gave us two powerful verifications that he was really alive.

First, Jesus showed them his physical body, including the scars from the nails in his wrists (hands) and ankles (feet), and the spear-hole in his side. This eternal evidence of his atonement is the unshakeable

foundation of our peace with God. Jesus encouraged them to touch him, to verify that his body was real.

Once this proof settled into their minds and hearts, the disciples experienced the explosive joy that he had promised them (16.20,22). In fact, their joy was so overwhelming that they could not believe it was really true!

So Jesus furnished a second round of proof: he ate food (fish) in their presence. The fact that the food disappeared and the crumbs remained showed them all that he was no ghost—he was alive in a real, yet different body from his earlier one.

After repeating his gift of peace to them, Jesus turned them again to the Scriptures as the foundation for their faith in his risen presence. He reminded them that he had told them all these things before it had all happened, from the time they were still in Galilee. His Bible study with them concerning the way the Scriptures prophesied his sufferings and the glories that would follow was exactly the same as what he had said to the two men on the road to Emmaus. This Bible study was the norm, every time he met with them.

Luke 24.45-49 are critical verses because Jesus summarized the entire Old Testament message in them. This is how we should interpret the Old Testament, too. It was a Trinitarian interpretation, for Father, Son and Spirit were all mentioned by Jesus.

The Old Testament Scriptures prophesied that the Messiah would accomplish the work of redemption by dying for our sins and rising again. His disciples would proclaim the word of redemption by the power of the Holy Spirit to all nations, after Jesus returned to heaven. The proclamation of forgiveness through Jesus was so crucial that it could cause all the people all the people of the entire world to either be forgiven, or else to remain unforgiven if we fail to proclaim it.

Therefore, the power of the Holy Spirit was not optional for disciples of Jesus—it is his command for all of us be filled and empowered by the Spirit so that we can be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

This summary and commission would be repeated by Jesus in his future resurrection appearances. It was the heartbeat of his continuous instructions to his apostles and all the disciples over the next 40 days. It ought to be our central focus and mission today, as well.

This is what Jesus' incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Holy Spirit was intended to accomplish: to make disciples out of all the peoples of the world.

#### APPLICATION:

Jesus' own work of redemption was intentionally wedded to our ministry of delivering the word of redemption to all people. The forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation depend upon our effective communication of the good news about them to the entire world. Therefore, Jesus commanded us to be filled with the power of his Spirit. Making disciples of all the nations is impossible in our own strength. Only the Spirit can make it happen. This was the lesson of the fifth resurrection appearance.

*Are you as filled with the Holy Spirit every day as it is possible for you to be? Are you praying daily and witnessing in your own "Jerusalem" to the mighty deeds of Jesus?*

*The message that Jesus is alive must be proclaimed to all the people of the world. How are you giving your life and soul to this task?*