

LESSON #90 – JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND TO THOMAS

Luke 24:36-49; John 20:34-31

God has made us in a very special way. God has given us eyes so that we can see all of the wonderful things which He has made. He has given us ears so that we can hear many wonderful sounds, the sound of a gentle breeze in the trees or the birds singing or the rain falling against the window. God has given us noses to smell the petals of a flower or the freshly mown grass of a warm spring day or the smell of good food cooking. God has given us fingers to touch and feel things. God has given us mouths to test things and to speak about all of the wonderful things which He has done. If you had to choose which one of these things would you do without? Your eyes, your nose, your ears, your fingers, your mouth? But do you know something? There is a part of us which is even more important than all of these things. That is our spirit. And God tells us in His Word that our spirits are dead because of the sin inside of us. We cannot see, or hear, or feel, or touch or smell.

In our lesson today we find the disciples gathered together again. The first time Jesus appeared to His disciples Thomas was not with them. He had not seen Jesus. The other disciples had told Thomas that Jesus had been with them, but he did not believe them. He said, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it." Thomas doubted. To doubt means that even though someone tells you that something is true, and even though you know they wouldn't lie to you, yet, you do not believe what they say. Thomas did not believe that Jesus was really alive and he said that he WOULD not believe unless he could see and touch Him.

Well, about a week later he got his wish. The disciples were all gathered together again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked as the disciples were still afraid of the Jews. They still did not understand what Jesus wanted them to do. Suddenly, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Jesus knew that Thomas had said so and so He turned to Thomas and said, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Then Thomas knew that Jesus really was alive. He said, "My Lord and my God!" He believed because he had seen Jesus. But Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." The Bible says that in order for you and me to get into God's kingdom we must have faith in Jesus Christ. Faith means believing what you cannot see but being sure that it is real. We cannot see Jesus today can we? He is in heaven, at the right hand of God, the Father. Then how do you know that He is real? How do you know that He is really alive? How do you know that Jesus gave His life for you and will someday come back to take you to be with Him forever? Because the Bible says so.

From this time on, for the next few weeks, Jesus taught the disciples about God's Word. He told them that God was going to send upon them His Holy Spirit and they would remember the things which He had said and done as they had been with Him and they would write these things down so that others might read about Jesus and believe in Him, too. What they wrote would be God's Word. They would go into all the world, as we shall see in a few weeks, telling people to turn away from their sins and be forgiven by God through Jesus Christ.

No, we cannot see Jesus or feel Him today. But if God's Spirit is inside of us, making our spirits come alive again, then we will have faith. We will know that Jesus IS alive and He is OUR Savior and Lord!

Memory Verse: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29.

Application: You should never try to make a deal with God as though He has to prove to you that He is telling the truth. Believe and He will bless you.

LESSON #90 – JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND TO THOMAS

Luke 24:36-49; John 20:24-31

As we have seen, even though Jesus had risen from the dead and had been seen by Mary and the men on the road to Emmaus and others, the disciples still did not really believe that Jesus would use them for anything special. They still did not understand that it was God's plan to save His chosen people through the preaching of the Gospel, the good news about Jesus and the forgiveness of sins through faith in Him. Jesus had told them that He was going to build His kingdom through the work of the church, and the church would be all those who believed that He was the Christ, the Son of living God. They thought that no one would believe in Jesus unless they saw Him with their own eyes, as they had. Now Jesus is going to explain more to them about God's plan for them and for the world.

The disciples were gathered together again, and they were talking about Jesus when, suddenly, Jesus was with them. The first time that Jesus had appeared to His disciples, Thomas had not been with them. He had not seen Jesus, and when they had told him that they had seen Jesus, Thomas did not believe them. They could not blame Thomas. The woman had told them that they had seen Jesus, but they had not believed either until they had seen Him with their own eyes. Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hands into His side, I will not believe it."

About a week later Thomas got his wish, and all of the disciples learned a very, very important lesson. As Jesus stood in the room with them He said again, "Peace be with you!" Jesus did not want the disciples to be afraid of anything. He wanted them to have peace in their hearts by knowing that He was always with them. Jesus knew what Thomas had said, and now He turned to him and said, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas did as Jesus told him to do. He touched Jesus and felt Him. He knew that it was really Jesus. Then Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas touched Jesus for you and for me, too. It is hard to believe in something or someone that you cannot see. We have the witness of one who doubted. He believed that this was Jesus, risen from the dead, and so all of those who are truly God's people will believe. But how? We cannot see Jesus. We cannot touch Jesus.

Jesus said something very important to all of the disciples after Thomas believed. He said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." The only way to be a part of God's Kingdom is to have faith in Jesus Christ. Your memory verse for today tells you what faith is: "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." We believe even though we cannot see Jesus. We believe that He is in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. We believe that He will come back for us someday and that even though we may die before that day comes we will go to be with Him forever and ever! We believe that because God has given us His Holy Spirit and has opened our hearts just as He opened the eyes of the men on the road to Emmaus to see that Jesus was alive.

From this time on, Jesus explained to the disciples that it was God's plan for Him to return to heaven, but those who believe were to take the message about Jesus to the world. The Holy Spirit would help them to understand all of these things, and they would write them down so that people hundreds and thousands of years later might read God's Word and believe in Jesus even though they cannot see Him with their eyes or touch Him with their hands.

Are you one of God's people? Are you in His kingdom? Do you believe even though you cannot see? If you can answer "yes" to these questions, thank God! He has opened your heart and has given you faith. If you still doubt ask God for wisdom and for His Spirit and for faith to believe His Word. It is true! Jesus lives and so shall I!

Jesus Appears to Thomas (Continued)

Name: _____ Date: _____

MEMORY VERSE

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” – Hebrews 11:1

APPLICATION

Some people might say that we cannot believe the disciples because they always thought Jesus would rise again, and they may have made it up. We see here that they did not believe at first, but they were convinced only when Jesus appeared to them. Because they believed we can believe even though we have not seen or touched Jesus. Since God gave them His Spirit, we have His Spirit if we are His children, and we can hear His Word and believe. Faith does not come from seeing miracles or signs. The Bible says that “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.” Don’t demand any more proof than God’s Word. Remember the Words of Jesus, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!”

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. God continues to build His kingdom by bringing men and women into it through the preaching of His _____.
2. _____ means believing in something that you cannot see or feel.
3. When Jesus had appeared to the disciples before, one of them, _____ had not been with them.
4. Thomas had told the disciples that he would not _____ until he had put his fingers in the holes where the nails had been in Jesus’ hands and had put his hand into His side.
5. After Thomas had seen Jesus and had touched Him, he said, “My _____ and my God!”
6. Jesus told the disciples that those would be blessed who did not _____ but believed without seeing.
7. Because our hearts are turned away from God by nature, we need God’s _____ to open our hearts so that we can believe.
8. The only way to be a part of God’s kingdom and to live with Him forever is to have faith in _____ believing that He has saved us by His death on the cross.
9. Jesus explained to the disciples that it was God’s _____ that He return to heaven and that they take the Gospel to the world.
10. Those who have faith today believe that Jesus is _____ and is ruling over all things, working in the hearts of His people by His Holy Spirit, working out all things for their good.

doubt
believe
Lord
Word

Jesus Christ
faith
alive

Thomas
plan
Holy Spirit

Class 5 Memorization	<i>HC Q+A:</i>		<i>Scripture:</i>	
-----------------------------	----------------	--	-------------------	--

LESSON #90 – JESUS CRUCIFIED AND THE EVENTS ON THE CROSS

Read Matt. 27:32-56; Mark15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37

This is what Jesus came to do. But do not look upon this only as an event, as something that happened. Look at Jesus. See Him there upon the cross, in pain and anguish of body and soul. See the whole world in darkness as the Son of God bears the wrath of God against sin! Do not think only that Jesus die for me on the cross. Jesus suffered the pain of hell for those who believe. But praise be to God that we do not only see God’s wrath and judgment here. For this is the most wonderful demonstration of God’s love and mercy. Here is God keeping all of His promises. Here is God giving His own Son to take our place. Can you consider these things, can you know this Savior, Jesus, and not love Him with all that is in you? Can you love Him without being willing to suffer to serve Him with your life?

QUESTIONS

1. What happened as they led Jesus away to be crucified? _____
2. Who carried the cross for Jesus the rest of the way? _____
3. Who was crucified with Jesus? _____
4. After they had crucified Jesus what did the soldiers do with His clothes? _____
5. All of these things fulfilled prophecies which had been made concerning the Saviors hundreds of years before. What statement did Pilate have written to be put above Jesus? _____
6. What did those who passed by do to add to the sorrow of Jesus? _____
What did they say? _____
7. Could Jesus have saved Himself? _____
8. Even as they crucified Him, Jesus thought not of Himself. What did He pray for the Father to do? _____
9. What did Jesus say to John when He saw His mother near the cross? _____
10. What promise did Jesus make to the repentant thief? _____
11. What statement of Jesus showed that He was suffering the wrath of God against sin? _____
12. What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is finished?” _____
13. How did Jesus die? _____
14. What happened in the temple? _____
15. What does Matthew tell us in verses 52 and 53 which also happened at this time? _____

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

See Hebrews 9:12, 24-28. What is the importance of the temple curtain being torn in two?