

Teaching of Jesus & Appearance to James Luke 24:44-49; I Corinthians 15:7

Appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection:

1. Mary at the tomb – John 20:11-18
2. Woman leaving the tomb – Matt. 28:9-10
3. James Two followers on the road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-32
4. Peter – Luke 24:34
5. 10 of the 11 disciples – no Thomas – John 20:19-25
6. 11 disciples – Thomas (8 days later) John 20:26-31
7. 7 disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee – John 21:1-25
8. 500+ disciples and followers in Galilee – I Cor. 15:6
9. the brother of Jesus – I Cor. 15:7
10. 11 Disciples at Ascension

The disciples and Jesus enjoyed wonderful times of fellowship, teaching, and encouragement those 40 days after the resurrection. We know of two private appearances from the Scriptures, Peter and James, Jesus' brother. In careful study we can learn the subjects of those lessons of Christ and see the impact His appearances made on all those that saw Him!

I. Teaching of Jesus

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,” Luke 24:44-45

“words which I spake unto you,” – Since the mid-point of His ministry, Jesus had told the disciples repeatedly about His upcoming death, burial, and resurrection. (Matt. 16:21) He often connected His life and ministry to the Old Testament prophecies. (Upper Room - John 13:18; 15:25; 17:12) Jesus' theme before and after His death was His fulfillment of the Old Testament, this is now a continuance of that thought!

“Then opened he their understand” – Just as Jesus taught the men on the way to Emmaus, Jesus will explain how He fulfilled the Old Testament = “law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms.” Jesus does this by the super-natural opening of their minds! Once they had been dull (Luke 9:45 2:50; 18:34) but now the truth of Jesus the Messiah is clear! Ps. 119:18; Isaiah 29:18-19 The fact that Jesus fulfilled all that was written in the Old Testament would be a vital point for Jews.

“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved (Gk - was necessary for) Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission (forgiveness) of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:46-49

The Gospel Story – “Ye are witnesses of **these things**” – Necessity of Jesus’ death, His resurrection, man’s need to repent and gain the remission (forgiveness) of sin. These are the points to be preached in Jesus’ name! Peter - Acts 2:22-24, 38; 3:13-19, 26; Paul - I Cor. 15:3-4

The Gospel Extent – “among **all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem.” – The viewpoint is world-wide, but it was to start in Jerusalem. Though the Jews had rejected Jesus, the Gospel was first going to them! Luke will go on in the Book of Acts with this program as given by Jesus! Acts 2:37-38; 17:1-4

The Gospel Tellers – “And **ye** are witnesses of these things” – Jesus had made a statement much like this one in the Upper Room – John 15:27. The disciples had witnessed Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection, and were to share their own experiences as witnesses, but all they had seen was based on the truths of the Word of God. They will all start in Jerusalem and teach Jesus from the Old Testament. Then as they are scattered throughout the then known world, they take the Gospel with them!

Like the early followers of Jesus, our relationship with Christ carries the privilege and responsibility to proclaim the Gospel too. Many times that begins with a simple conversation about what God has done in your life. Vance Havner, the 20th century evangelist said, “People do not come to Christ at the end of an argument. Simon Peter came to Jesus because Andrew went after him with a testimony.” WW p. 225

The Gospel Power – “I send the **promise** of my Father upon you:” – Jesus commands them to remain in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He used a word which was translated “endued” meaning “clothed”! Their Gospel proclamation was not to be a “sales pitch” but a Spirit-empowered witness of all they had seen and heard! (Acts 4:33) Remember, the Holy Spirit is from God, we are not left alone to do this task, we can do nothing on our own! Jesus had repeatedly given this promise to His followers. (Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7)

II. Appearance to James

“After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.” I Corinthians 15:7

James, the brother of Jesus – Though there are other James in the Gospels, without exception scholars believe Jesus appeared to His earthly half-brother James. It is probable that he would have been close to Jesus in age. In a list of Jesus’ brothers, James comes first. (Matt. 13:53-56)

Before the Resurrection – John 7:5 tells us the brethren of Jesus did not believe that He was the Messiah. They could not take the leap between sibling they grew-up with to the Holy One of Israel. Even when the Jews in Jerusalem sought to kill Jesus, His brethren mocked Him, and told Him to go to the feast and prove who He claimed to be. Earlier, thinking Jesus was mad, they tried to come and talk with Him or perhaps persuade Him to come home. (Mark 3:20-21; 31-32)

After the Resurrection – “he was seen of James;” – These five words of Paul in I Corinthians is all we know about the post-resurrection meeting between Christ and James. But the changed life of James is recorded

in Acts, several Epistles, and even ancient history. It is wonderful to know that the commitment of James to the Lord Jesus Christ seemed to spill over to all his earthly siblings.

- Acts 1:14 – James, his mother Mary, and all his brethren met with the disciples in an upper room for prayer after the ascension.
- Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18 - James became the leader/Pastor of the church in Jerusalem. This would have been a very difficult church to shepherd in a time of transition. The diverse membership, Jewish traditions, and persecutions put many pressures on the believers. James was a respected wise and patient leader that helped to moderate sensitive meetings within the church and among the apostles those early church days.
- Galatians 1:19 - James received Paul after his conversion while others would not
- Galatians 2:9, 12 - Paul refers to James, Peter, and John as the “pillars” of the Jerusalem church. James was well known to the scattered Jewish believers. He was known as “The James”.
- I Corinthians 9:5 – Paul cites that fact that the “brethren of the Lord” had wives they traveled with in their missionary journeys.
- Jude 1 – When Jude introduced his epistle he mentioned being, “and brother of James”
- James 1:1 – James the half-brother of Jesus wrote the book of James. But he only called himself, “a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” This book was one of the earliest epistles – before 50 AD, after Stephan’s martyrdom written to the scattered Jews.
- Josephus, the ancient historian, held James in high esteem. He recorded James being exceedingly revered for his justice, temperance, and devotion. Josephus honestly believed that the martyrdom of James by the Religious Leaders caused God to judge the Jews by allowing the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Believer’s Application:

1. The opening of our minds to Scriptures. This is the wonderful work of God. Here we saw Jesus opening their understanding. For each believer today, the Holy Spirit assists in our understanding. We need God’s intervention to understand the Scriptures! Everyone does! 2 Cor. 3:14-17; Acts 16:14 Keep in mind, no high IQ, no deep thinker, no intense study can take the place of the work of God in the mind of the believer. If you want to know Christ and become more like Him, you must know and understand the Scriptures and that only happens when the Holy Spirit opens your heart! Pray for it! John 16:12-15 Paul’s prayer – Eph. 1:17-19

2. We are all just servants of Jesus. James 1:1 says, “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.” Matthew Henry wrote of this verse, “Though he was a prime minister in Christ’s kingdom, he styled himself only a servant. Those who are highest in office or attainments in the church of Christ are but servants. They should not act as masters, but as ministers. Though James is called by the evangelist “the brother of our Lord,” it was his glory to serve Christ in the spirit rather than to boast of his being (a relative) according to the flesh.” p. 2114

Pride is one of the strongest sinful tendencies of man. We can find the strangest things to be proud of, but in reality, God has given us all things! James could have flaunted the fact that he was the half-brother of Christ, he could have been quite the celebrity among the early church, but that is not what was important to Him. Serving His Savior, leading the flock of God, feeding the lambs, moderating the disputes, writing to the persecuted, courageously welcoming Saul the oppressor into the fold; literally being faithful in his Jerusalem! This was James, the brother of Jesus. We don’t know the post-resurrection conversation between Jesus and James, but we do know that it was the turning point of James’ life. This turning point is called repentance! It happens when one realizes that Jesus is the Savior, and they give their life to Him. They are a new creature! 2 Corinthians 5:14-21