

PERTH BIBLE CLASS

HE CAME TO WHERE THEY WERE

STUDY 7

The Upper Room – John 20 v 19 – 29

So many of the events surrounding the day of resurrection and the following days until the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven could fit with our title “He came to where they were”

Accounts of the resurrection and its events can be traced in all four gospels. Matt 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20 and 21.

Other resurrection appearances include

Mary at the tomb – John 20

A group of woman on their way back from the tomb – Matt 28

Two travellers on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus – Luke 24

To Simon – Luke 24

To the disciples in the upper room on two occasions – John 20

To disciples on a mountain in Galilee – Matt 28

To disciples at the sea – John 21

To a large company of disciples (500) – 1 Cor 15

To James – 1 Cor 15

To disciples before his ascension to heaven – Acts 1.

The Lord Jesus appeared to people in the morning, afternoon and evening. He appeared in a garden, on the roadside, in a house, on a mountain, and by the sea. He appealed to the senses of man – he ate with them, he talked to them, he breathed on them, he showed them his hands, feet and side. **His resurrection was real and was in a body** with all the senses we mentioned yet uniquely different in being able to enter closed homes and leave again. His was truly a resurrection body and we are reminded at the time of the rapture “we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” 1 Cor 15 v 49 “we shall be changed” v 51.

v 19 – **Fear Dispelled** – The disciples are together but in fear of the Jews. The door is locked but we read “came Jesus and stood in the midst of them”. In a previous study on the sea Jesus came to them walking on the sea. On that occasion again fear was dispelled by His presence. Lovely to hear what He says “peace be unto you”.

v 20 – **A Real Man** – “He shewed unto them his hands and his side”. In Luke 24 v 39 we read “ a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have”. Not only is fear dispelled but joy takes its place “glad when they saw the Lord”.

v 21 – **Commissioned** – While fuller details of the commission are given in Matt 28 and Mark 16 it is clear that the disciples are being sent by the Saviour. Interesting to note that the first “sent” relating to the father and son the sender remains behind but where the “send” relates to the Saviour and his disciples they will be sent with an escort.

v 22 – **Empowered** – Service for the master demands that his servants be empowered so he “breathed on them”. After the day of Pentecost which at this time was still future all of those who belong to Christ will have the indwelling Spirit of God. Prior to the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came and went from servants. see Judges 11 v 29 Jephthah and 13 v 25 Samson.

v 23 - **A message of forgiveness** – The message was to be one of forgiveness of sins. They would be the preachers but forgiveness belonged to God. Heaven did not ratify what they did but rather they recognised the work done in heaven. This verse might better read “Whosoever sins ye forgive shall have already been forgiven them and whosoever sins ye do not forgive shall not have been forgiven them”.

v 24 & 25 – **Missed Blessing** – Sadly Thomas was missing. Why? we are not told but undoubtedly his was the loss. He missed being with the risen Christ and the strength that came to the other disciples was missing for a further eight days for Thomas. We must not become guilty of missing the times when the saints are together with the Lord. Such conduct is contrary to scripture see Heb 10 v 25.

v 26 -28 – **Grace displayed** – We might have given up on Thomas. The master will not and so the Saviour returns to the same company but now with Thomas present. He is challenged on the basis of his doubts so vocally presented in v 25 “ I will not believe”. Now he clearly acknowledges “My Lord and my God”. What a statement of the deity of the Lord Jesus. He is Lord – He is God.

v 29 – **Promised Blessing** – Because Thomas had seen he believed however there is greater blessing promised “blessed are they who have not seen yet have believed”.