

Sermon

April 8, 2018

What was it like after Jesus' Resurrection? *John 21: 1-25*

Jeff Jackson

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus“

I. Confusion

Notes: _____

John 21:12

None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord

N.T. Wright

Once again, as when Jesus emerged through the locked doors of the upper room, there is a moment where our spines tingle. ‘None of them dared ask, Who are you? They knew it was the master’ (*verse 12*). That is a very, very strange way to put it. It belongs with the other exceedingly strange things that are said in the resurrection accounts. They knew it was him ... yet they wanted to ask, and were afraid to.

Why did they want to ask? They had been with him night and day for two or three years, and they wanted to ask who he was? I might as well wake up my own wife one morning and ask her who she is. If they didn’t know him by now they never would.

And yet. The sentence only makes sense if Jesus is, as well as the same, somehow different. No source mentions what he was wearing. No source describes his face. Somehow he had passed through death, and into a strange new world where nobody had ever been before, and nobody has yet been since—though we are firmly and securely promised that we shall join him there eventually. His body was no longer subject to decay or death.

II. Consolidation

A. *Background of Scripture:*

B. *Temple theology:*

1. The first temple built by Solomon but then destroyed in the Exile.
2. The second temple was built by those who returned from Exile later completely refurbished by King Herod then later destroyed in the Fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
3. Resurrected Jesus: After the Death & Resurrection of Jesus, no longer was the temple made out of stone but rather Heaven and Earth would now dwell in the Resurrected Jesus. In Christ all things hold together both Heaven and Earth.

2 Corinthians 1:20

²⁰ For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.

John 2:19-22

¹⁹ “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

²⁰ “What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” ²¹ But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

¹ Wright, T. (2004). [*John for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 11-21*](#) (pp. 160–161). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
¹⁶ for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.
Everything was created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.
¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church,
which is his body.
He is the beginning,
supreme over all who rise from the dead.
So he is first in everything.
¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
²⁰ and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

C. *The Church:*

Romans 9:1-8

¹I am telling the truth in union with Christ—I am not lying, for my conscience, confirms it in the Holy Spirit.
²I have deep sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart, ³for I could wish that I myself were condemned and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my relatives according to the flesh.
⁴They are Israelites. To them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, Christ descended, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
⁶Now it is not as though the word of God has failed. **For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel, ⁷and not all of Abraham's descendants are his true descendants. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that descendants will be named for you."** ⁸**That is, it is not the children of natural descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as descendants.**

Sinclair B. Ferguson

We are adopted into God's family through the resurrection of Christ from the dead in which he paid all our obligations to sin, the law, and the devil, in whose family we once lived. Our old status lies in his tomb. A new status is ours through his resurrection.

D. *New Creation:*

Martin Luther

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime.

Revelation 21:22-27

²² I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. ²⁴ The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. ²⁵ Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. ²⁶ And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the

city. ²⁷ Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

Galatians 6:14-15

¹⁴ As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died. ¹⁵ It doesn’t matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation.

III. Connection

Notes: _____

Revelation 3:20-21

²⁰ “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. ²¹ Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

Acts 17:27

²⁷ “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.

N. T. Wright

Here is the secret of all Christian ministry, yours and mine, lay and ordained, full-time or part-time. It’s the secret of everything from being a quiet, back-row member of a prayer group to being a platform speaker at huge rallies and conferences. If you are going to do any single solitary thing as a follower and servant of Jesus, this is what it’s built on. Somewhere, deep down inside, there is a love for Jesus, and though (goodness knows) you’ve let him down enough times, he wants to find that love, to give you a chance to express it, to heal the hurts and failures of the past, and give you new work to do.

Catherine Toon, Marked by Love: Unveiling the Substance of Your True Identity

“Love is a Person Who wants to be known.”

Sunday Adelaja

“Be less religious and discover for yourself how to be intimate with God.”

Conclusion:

N.T. Wright, Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense

“Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance. Made for relationship, we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. But new creation has already begun. The sun has begun to rise. Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incompleteness of the present world ... That, quite simply, is what it means to be Christian: to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God’s new world, which he has thrown open before us.”