

Resurrection Surprises

John 21:1-14

The resurrection of Christ was accompanied by many surprises and startling events. The women were surprised when they came to the tomb and found it empty with the heavy stone rolled away (*Luke 24:1-3*). Mary Magdalene was surprised when the supposed gardener turned out to be Jesus (*John 20:11-18*). The guards who were at the scene of the tomb were surprised when the Jewish authorities gave them a large sum of money and instructed them to spread fake news about the disciples stealing the body (*Matt. 28:11-13*).



The ten disciples were surprised when Jesus appeared to them in a room with the doors tightly shut (*John 20:19*). Thomas was surprised a week later not only to see the risen Christ, but also to view His wounds (*John 20:24-29*). The seven disciples were surprised when, after toiling all night and catching nothing, a Man on the shore told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship resulting in 153 fish (*John 21:1-11*). These same disciples were again surprised to find a breakfast of fish sandwiches awaiting them (*John 21:9*).

James, the half-brother of the Lord (an unbeliever--*John 7:5*), was surprised that the risen Lord made a special post-resurrection appearance to him (*1 Cor. 15:7*). Saul of Tarsus was surprised to meet the risen Lord amidst brilliant light; from that point on, he was never the same (*Acts 9*). The readers of Paul's Corinthian letter were surprised to learn that the risen Lord appeared to more than 500 people on one occasion (in Galilee), and that more than 250 of these witnesses were still alive when Paul wrote this epistle around 55 A. D. (*1 Cor. 15:6*).

Unbelievers will be surprised when one day they will see the living Christ whom they rejected. Bowing their knees to Him, they will confess that He is Lord (*Phil. 2:9-11*).

~*George Zeller*: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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