



Remarkable Yet Puzzling Resurrection Appearances

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

The Lord Jesus showed Himself alive following His passion and resurrection (*Acts 1:3*). The risen Lord was seen by hundreds of people for a period of forty days (*1 Cor. 15:6*). The Divine inspiration of the Scriptures is evident in the reporting of these sightings of Jesus. If we were writing the story it would have been different. We probably would have had the risen Christ be seen first by some important man, not by a formerly demon-possessed woman (*Mark 16:9*). No doubt we would have had Him appear to His mother Mary, yet no such meeting is recorded. We might want to astonish His enemies by sending the Lord to Pilate and Herod and the Jewish leaders who condemned Him to die, yet He visited none of them.

He did not show Himself alive to His enemies, with one exception. He later appeared to the Church's greatest enemy, Saul of Tarsus, who was transformed by grace and became the Church's greatest apostle (*1 Cor. 15:8-9*). Christ normally did not appear to unbelievers, but He was seen by His unbelieving half-brother James whose life was changed from that point forward (*John 7:5; 1 Cor. 15:7*).

The Lord made an appearance to Peter (*1 Cor. 15:5*), but we are told nothing of the details. Since Peter had recently denied the Lord, we can assume our Lord's purpose was restorative. Part two of that restoration took place in John 21:15-23. The disciple who seemed closest to the Lord and leaned on His breast was John, and yet John had no private resurrection appearance as did Peter and James, but only saw the Lord in the presence of other disciples. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus appeared to Cleophas (*Luke 24:18*), a man about whom we know very little.

God's ways are not our ways, but God's ways are always right!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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