

Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #15: Private Meeting between the Lord and Peter—His Denier, 1 Cor. 15:5; Luke 24:34.

Review of the resurrection *events* up to this point (I have narrowed down the *approximate* hour of the events based on sunset of Saturday, April 4, 33 and the sunrise of Sunday, April 5, 33; MM is Mary Magdalene):

- Event #1: Saturday, 5:45 p.m., April 4, 33: Two Marys go to “look” at tomb, Matt. 28:1.
- Event #2: Sunday, 3:00 a.m., April 5, 33: Earthquake and angel from heaven, Matt. 28:2-4.
- Event #3: Sunday, 4:00 a.m.: MM visits the tomb before daybreak, Jn. 20:1.
- Event #4: Sunday, 4:15 a.m.: MM reports empty tomb to John & Peter, Jn. 20:2.
- Event #5: Sunday, 4:30 a.m.: Peter and John run to the tomb, Jn. 20:3-9.
- Event #6: Sunday, 4:40 a.m.: MM returns to tomb & sees 2 angels, Jn. 20:10-13.
- Event #7: Sunday, 4:50 a.m.: MM sees the Risen Lord, Jn. 20:14-17.
- Event #8: Sunday, 5:00 a.m.: MM tells disciples who do not believe her, Jn. 20:18; Mk. 16:9-11.
- Event #9: Sunday, 6:00 a.m.: MM & other women go to tomb of Jesus, Mk. 16:1-3; Lk. 24:1-2.
- Event #10: Sunday, 6:30 a.m.: Women enter tomb; 3 angels, Mt. 28:5-7; Mk 16:4-7; Lk. 24:3-8.
- Event #11: Sunday, 7:00 a.m.: Women run in fear; Jesus meets them, Mt. 28:8-10; Mk. 16:8.
- Event #12: Sunday, 8:00 a.m.: Women went to tell disciples; soldiers report, Mat 28:11-15.
- Event #13: Sunday, 8:10 a.m.: Once again, the disciples do not believe the women, Lk. 24:9-11
- Event #14: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.: However, Peter runs to the tomb a second time, Lk. 24:12.
- Event #15: Sunday, 8:45 a.m.: Private meeting between Jesus and Peter, 1 Cor. 15:5; Lk. 24:34.

1 Corinthians 15:5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Luke 24:34 saying, "The Lord has really risen, and has appeared to Simon."

God the Holy Spirit did not see fit to provide the details of this private meeting between the denier and His Lord. The other appearances of the risen Lord to individuals on the day of resurrection are narrated with a fair amount of detail. John gives us the beautiful account of our Lord's conversation with Mary Magdalene. Luke gives a great many details of the two travelers on the road to Emmaus. Yet deep silence is preserved in regard to this appearance to Peter. No word escaped Peter's lips as to what passed in the conversation between the denier and his Lord. This is extremely significant.

The other appearances of the risen Lord to individuals on the day of Resurrection suggest their own reasons. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene because she loved much. The love that make a timid woman brave, and the sorrow that filled her heart, to the exclusion of everything else, drew Jesus to her. Christ always comes to fulfill the need.

The two on the road to Emmaus (the next event) were puzzled, honest, painful seekers after truth. It was worth Christ's while to spend hours of that day of Resurrection in clearing questions and sincere minds. Christ always comes to fill the need.

This meeting was to fulfill Peter's need of *personal sense* of restoration after his cowardice and denial which was met by a look of love from Jesus Himself that prompted Peter to cry with great personal shame and bitterness:

Luke 22:55-62 And after they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them.⁵⁶ And a certain servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight, and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too."⁵⁷ But he denied *it*, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."⁵⁸ And a little later, another saw him and said, "You are *one* of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"⁵⁹ And after about an hour had passed, another man *began* to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too."⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, a cock crowed.⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a cock crows today, you will deny Me three times."⁶² **And he went out and wept bitterly.**

The last time Peter had seen the face of Jesus was when Jesus was being mistreated by the malefactors. As these evildoers were taking Jesus from one place to the other, Jesus looked at Peter in the crowd with a look of love and patience, and this caused Peter to breakout in tears. Imagine how that calm stare of unconditional love penetrated Peter. Imagine that being the last thing seared into the memory of Peter.

So, unlike the other narratives, this one is clouded in secrecy. Jesus appeared to Peter privately to soothe the agony of a man filled with profound shame and sorrow. What did He say to Peter? The conversation is not recorded. However, we can be sure there was talk of unconditional love, grace, forgiveness, and restoration to ministry. We can be sure that the special message of Christ to Peter communicated the fact that there is no fault, no denial, no sin, no evil, no wickedness, no shame, no guilt—nothing!—that can divert or effect the love of Christ for His own. Peter had absolutely no doubt that the Lord was real and that His forgiveness is perfect. There is absolutely no sin that can turn away the love of Christ—not even the blatant triple blasphemous denials of Peter. This meeting that was diffused with grace and forgiveness is what changed Peter from being a coward before the servant-girl (Luke 22:56) to a bold man of extraordinary courage before all men as recorded throughout Acts.

We are so blessed to have such a Lord so filled with grace, forgiveness, and love! What a motivation!

Pastor Don