

Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #20a: In the morning, perhaps two weeks after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, He appears on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

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.
- Event #16: Sunday, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Jesus & 2 travelers to Emmaus, Mk. 16:12; Lk. 24:13-32.
- Event #17: Sunday, 5:00 p.m. The 2 travelers tell the 11 Disciples, Mk. 16:13; Lk. 24:33-35.
- Event #18: Sunday, 5:20 p.m. Thomas leaves; Jesus appears, Lk. 24:36-49; Jn. 20:19-25.
- Event #19: 8 days after the resurrection. Jesus appears to Thomas, Mk. 16:14-18; Jn 20:26-31.
- Event #20: 2 weeks after the resurrection. Jesus’s appearance on shore of Galilee, Jn 21:1-25.

This event is fairly straightforward. The “two weeks” is nothing more than an educated guess. The goal in this series is to provide a chronology that synchronizes every passage on the Resurrection in a straightforward plausible manner without omitting a single passage or event. There are three important lessons in this section that I will be touching on in three separate doctrinal reflections. The passage and event:

Event #20: **John 21:1-25**: After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested *Himself* in this way. ² There were

together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out, and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. ⁴ But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus therefore said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." ⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you will find *a catch*." They cast therefore, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. ⁷ That disciple therefore whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." And so when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net *full* of fish. ⁹ And so when they got out upon the land, they saw a charcoal fire *already* laid, and fish placed on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come *and* have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread, and gave them, and the fish likewise. ¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep." ¹⁸ "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself, and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to *go*." ¹⁹ Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!" ²⁰ Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" ²¹ Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" ²² Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me!" ²³ This saying therefore went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but *only*, "If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you?" ²⁴ This is the disciple who bears witness of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his witness is true. ²⁵ And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written.

In verse 14 we are told that this was the third time the Lord appeared to the disciples: this was the third group appearance (the other two we have noted: one without Thomas and one with Thomas). Peter had remarked to the other disciples: "I am go fishing," and the other disciples decided to join him but caught no fish throughout the night (vss. 3-4). The rising sun ended their hopes of a haul. It was when they were disappointed that the Stranger was seen on the beach. He asks them about their success and they responded with a negative curt answer. As far as them not recognizing Christ, we do not need to bring in any idea of personal change in the corporeity of Jesus Christ to understand their non-recognition of Him. It was the gray dawn of the morning; they were not thinking about Him; they had something else to look at, they scarcely looked at Him. They answered briefly as possible, and then went on with their work.

Then came the first of the revealing words: "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you shall find a catch" (21:6). His statement makes it clear that the Risen Christ directs His servants. Although this certainly included temporal blessings, the lessons are far greater than the *temporal*. We see that the Risen Lord, unseen, is interested in His believer's toils. We see that the Risen Lord will guide us, if we will let ourselves be guided. We see that the guiding Christ is the Source of all true success in life, as well as the Fountain of counsel. As far as the temporal blessings for these fishermen, they had so many fish they could not even haul them in (21:6). At this point they still did not recognize Christ. Perhaps they thought to themselves that this stranger on the beach had seen some signs of a shoal from a higher elevation than they from the water's level. But, at all events, they obeyed Christ, and obeying they were blessed by Him.

Temporal success may not always come like this. But true success, spiritual success, *always* comes upon those who follow His Word. He chooses our paths. He knows what is best for us. He will always fill our empty nets. We will always be amazed at the results of His blessings if we are walking with Him. Yes, we will all face hardships. Some of those hardships are from our own decisions; others, part of the refining process. In any event, no matter what: there is no such thing as any gratuitous suffering on the earth—no suffering and disappointment for nothing.

It was as He was directing them and blessing their *obedience*, that John, sitting in the boat, recognized it was Jesus. He was not the first to recognize Him because he had better vision; rather, it was because his love was the deepest, and his temperament the most reflective of the disciples. Those who most clearly "see" the Lord are those who ponder and love. When John said, "It is the Lord!" emotional Peter, the man of "action" jumped in and swam to this Stranger in the growing light. Why wouldn't Peter just stay in the boat and come with the rest? Although *part* of his motivation was likely his temperament, his most powerful motivation was His understanding of grace. Peter had denied the Lord *three* times after which he experienced Christ's look of love and grace as the authorities were transporting Christ after which the Lord had appeared to Peter privately and with the others.

There is no way Peter or any human being could ever forget the experience of God's marvelous matchless grace. Grace moves man like nothing else. Legalism and religionism kill. Grace gives life! There is nothing like grace! Grace can transform the most hardened God-hater and Bible-hater on the planet into nothing less than the most loving and devoted lover of God and His Word (which reveals Him and His plan). On the other side of the coin, the believer who really is not a devoted lover of God and His Word

really does not understand grace; and, yes, does not have a deep love of the Lord (John 14:24). The believer who is not overwhelmed by the grace of God does not get it. He does not understand grace. We can be sure that the source of this lack of understanding of God's matchless grace is not from God or due to lack of opportunities to "get it."

Blessed by Grace,

Pastor Don

