

## Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #20k: Lessons for the young and old (John 21:18, 19): biblical view of sex-3

---

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., April 5, 33: 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 appears on shore of Sea of Galilee, Jn 21:1-25.

This DDR concludes the series on lessons for the young and old (cf. John 21:18-19). I will summarize the various issues facing believers of all ages and review some of the basic biblical teachings on sex.

First, the young. The challenges facing the young include many *significant changes*: physical changes, interpersonal changes, changing values that conflict with parental standards, transitioning to more independence, peer pressure, acquiring new skills, and self or self-esteem orientation issues. These changes can bring about a sense of being alone, alienation, depression, apathy, rebellion, anxiety, emotional fluctuations, insecurity, brooding, a felt need to act out in frustration, guilt, and the temptation to run away from the various problems. Although most young people hold in, act out, or run away from their problems, those who make Bible doctrine and fellowship with God the issues through all of the vicissitudes of life will make the transition

to adulthood with incredible stability, grace, wisdom, and blessings with capacity for God's best for their lives. The only alternative to the life of doctrine is the carnal old sin nature life which always makes a wreck out of one's young soul and future.

Second, the middle aged. In middle age there are a different set of *changes*: physical changes (skin, baldness, middle-age spread), decrease in physical strength and stamina, the loss of youthful appearance, feeling of being more tired, memory is slightly poorer, thinking is less flexible, issues dealing with children (how will they turn out) and aging parents (how will I be able to help them), boredom (not launching a new career, daily mundane routines), sense of being overwhelmed with responsibilities, feelings of inadequacy, transitional issues as children leave home (guilt over past failures, loneliness, no longer feel needed or wanted), marital mid-life crisis regarding marriage due to marital boredom and the routine of it all, bitterness, frustration, self-pity, and health problems. While being human means that all middle-aged people will experience a bit of instability through the changes of life, with Bible doctrine and the Holy Spirit you can have greater enthusiasm and enjoyment of life than even the young and healthy. There are so many fantastic things to look forward to learning about the Lord and His fantastic plan—regardless of what age we find ourselves. However, apart from doctrine and fellowship with God the only thing that a middle-aged person can look forward to is the banality of it all.

Third, the elderly. Likewise in old age there are many *changes*: physical changes as the body runs down; cosmetic changes with graying and thinning hair, wrinkling skin, dark spots; sensory changes involved in hearing and seeing; body is slower to heal; pain of arthritis; reproductive changes; gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, respiratory issues; seeing friends die; and central nervous system changes to mention a few. With the inevitable decline there is disease and illness, short-term memory problems, self-esteem issues, problems in the interpersonal realm as one becomes less mobile, and the existential reality and inevitability of death. There are also psychological challenges in a society that values youth and beauty where the old are often unwanted and unwelcomed. How is one to deal with these issues? They cannot be avoided—barring the Rapture. The solution of course is Bible doctrine and the spiritual life. In old age a person should take the extra time that they have to redouble their efforts to stay in fellowship and study Bible doctrine. Not only does reading and studying Bible doctrine provide such a blessed perspective, studying doctrine (and yes, Christian philosophy) can keep a person from becoming senile due to atrophy of his mind. Some of the greatest thinkers I read are Christian philosophers in their eighties and nineties who continue to make significant contributions to knowledge of God and life—and they are such storehouses of wisdom! What a thing to aspire to! One of the worst things any old person can do is atrophy in front of the television. Doctrine and life with God are the answers. Abraham made many boneheaded mistakes when he was young, but he finally got with the plan of God, and when he died, he died full of life: *And Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people*, Genesis 25:8. He died a satisfied man instead of a miserable old curmudgeon which is what the old sin nature and kosmos diabolicus is guaranteed to do to anyone who does not keep pressing on in the spiritual life. What a waste! Instead of finishing life out with great happiness and goodness, so many opt for the old decrepit sin nature life of reversionism. It need not be this way. But it will be away apart from seriousness with regard to the spiritual life and Bible doctrine. The fact is that old people in doctrine and fellowship actually are a lot more fun to be around and have a happier disposition than the carnal young who are always bored and on some frantic search for happiness in some form. We must always keep pressing forward on the Glory Road until we draw our last breath and go to our reward.

Fourth, summary of biblical sex:

1. Sexual attractiveness and sexual feelings have been created by God and should be considered good, not sinful.
2. All persons, male and female, are created in God's image and each should be respected. To use another person is to violate his or her personality by making that person an object. This is not love.
3. God intends his people to live holy lives. Whatever they do should be done to the glory of God.
4. Christians must respect God's directions for expressing sexuality. The Bible warns against the misuse of sex, sexual sin is anything done contrary to the revealed Word of God.
5. From God's perspective, the only proper place for sexual intercourse is within the context of a mutual, lifelong commitment of a man and woman, in the form of marriage. God has our best interests in view when He commands us to wait for intercourse until we are married.
6. There is a phenomenon today called flat-souled people who are incapable of relating to other people as *persons* in an intimate lovemaking way. This is due to illicit sexual activity where sex is viewed as only physical. While people think they are safe because they use a condom, there is no such thing as a condom for the soul.
7. Petting is a common activity among people who are not married to each other. Unlike foreplay, which is preparation for sexual intercourse among the married, petting is exploration of another by two people who do not intend to have intercourse.
8. Petting has many risks, spiritual and psychological. One of the adverse effects of heavy petting is illustrated by the law of diminishing returns; the principle that with constant repetition over a period of time, the effect of a stimulus on an individual tends to decrease. To keep the same effect, the stimulation must be increased. Petting is a physical stimulation that conforms to this law. After reaching a certain point of intimacy, a couple almost always finds that retreat to less intimate involvement is difficult. In contrast, petting creates the desire for more intimate sexual union. In advanced stages, petting is especially difficult to stop and may result in frustration, tenseness, and decreasing self-control.
9. God the Holy Spirit is the source of personal, practical power to help guide us and control our sexuality. Sex need not be a drive that enslaves. For those who seek His help, God will cleanse us on a moment-by-moment basis to keep us from wrong attitudes and actions.
10. God is a God of grace and regardless of the past He forgives and heals. While the forgiveness is instantaneous, the healing can take a lifetime. The healing requires divine viewpoint displacing human viewpoint and that is always a very long process. The problem is that most do not want to take the dedication that is demanded to press on in the spiritual life *no matter what!*

What I love about the plan of God is that we all get to choose what is most important about our lives. While we do not get a choice about our DNA or certain mental or physical limitations, we can choose what kind of person we are becoming. Yes "are"—we are not the same person we were yesterday or the day before. We are different each day. We are either walking in darkness (old sin nature and kosmos diabolicus), or we are walking in the light as He Himself is in the light. As far me, I choose the Light.

On the Glory Road,

*Pastor Don*

