

## Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #20m: God's Unique Plan for your life-2: the Lord of life (John 21:21, 22).

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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 event includes the incredible statement from the Lord that He had the power to keep John alive until He returns. This means that Jesus Christ had the power to keep John alive for at least two thousand years:

John 21:21, 22 Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"  
Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"

What a revelation of the risen Christ as the Lord of life and death with that majestic, "If I want him to remain" (θέλω μένειν)! Wow! Not only does Jesus assert the absolute right to fix the believer's place in this world, and have the power to foresee and forecast his destiny, and end,

but in these words He goes a step further and indicates that He has the power to keep a believer alive indefinitely. Without a doubt Jesus Christ makes it clear that He has the power as *Esse* to give and sustain life by the bare desire of His will as God. His words would be absurd, if not something worse, if He were not *Esse* incarnate. The Lord who created all things and holds all things together by the power of His Word has the power to sustain physical life indefinitely.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

We have here one of the strongest and plainest instances of the quiet, unostentatious and habitual manner in which Jesus Christ claimed for Himself properly divine prerogatives. Let's not forget that He who thus spoke was standing before these seven men there, in the morning light, on the beach, fresh from the grave. His resurrection had proved Him to be the Lord of death. He had risen and He stood there before them with no marks of corruption. He was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection of the dead:

Romans 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

These two Apostle's later history was full of proofs that Christ's claim was valid. Peter's martyrdom was not because of the strength of Nero, but because of the will of the Lord. John may have wished not to live to such an old age. Perhaps he would rather have departed to be with the Lord, "Amen, I even so, come, Lord Jesus!" However, the Lord had other plans for John which included suffering persecution on the island of Patmos and writing the book of Revelation. Peter's ministry would flourish from 33-67, John's would flourish from 70-100. God has very different plans for each individual, yet there is one common denominator, "Follow Christ." This is only possible by fellowship and growth in His Word.

I have often been asked what are believers doing between death and resurrection. What are Peter and John doing *now*? Let's note six realities about the dead in Christ:

1. The dead in Christ are in the presence of the Lord,

Psalm 17:15 As for me, I shall behold Thy face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Thy likeness when I awake.

2. The dead in Christ are precious in the sight of the Lord,

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His godly ones.

3. The dead in Christ are in far better condition than those who are alive,

Philippians 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

4. The dead in Christ are resting,

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

5. The dead in Christ are beholding the glory of their Savior and worshipping Him in truth and love.

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.

6. The dead in Christ are not complete as they still look forward to their resurrection bodies—they will rise first, 1 Thess. 4:16.

From beginning to end, from this temporal life through all of eternity, the Lord has a unique plan for each of us. Some of us will have long earthly lives and some short. It is totally His call. What a blessing that He not only removed all of our sins and gave us His own righteousness but that He has given us all life and immortality through the gospel,

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

Wow! What blessings! How can one not get excited about these truths? (One can't help but feel so sorry for our fellow short-minded empiricists).

In His Sacred Love,

*Pastor Don*