

# THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## Telling the World!

Acts 1:1-11

### THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

In a mere three days the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished the mission for which He had come into the world.

- **Jesus paid the debt for our sin in full as He shed His blood upon the cross.**
- **Entering into the bowels of the earth to Sheol, the abode of the dead, He announced His victory over Satan and all the forces of evil.**
- **Then, Early on Sunday our risen Lord led all the faithful believers from Adam to the repentant thief on the cross out of Paradise in Sheol into Heaven itself, which He forever opened for all who would put their trust in Him.**

THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD and offers us hope for eternity!

So, why did Jesus hang around?

What did Jesus do for the 40 days?

Acts 1:1-3 offers a good summary, and a good beginning point for us to understand why Jesus stayed around so long.

Acts 1:1–3 NKJV 1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

I see three primary things Jesus did during that time.

First, **JESUS PROVED HE REALLY WAS THE SON OF GOD WHO HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD.**

Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene.

- Not only a woman
- Very likely the woman with the most notorious past in Jesus' entourage

Next Jesus appears to the other Mary and to other women.

## Then Jesus appears to Simon Peter

- Isn't this interesting?
- Jesus first appears to the woman from whom He cast seven demons.
- The first man Jesus appears to is the disciple who swore he did not even know him.
- There is a message here!
  - Do not think you are too sinful to come to Christ.
  - He said He came to seek and to save those who are lost.
  - Christian brother, Christian sister, (maybe someone listening online because you are not comfortable being present inside a church building.) You may be a believer, but you know you have greatly or repeatedly sinned against the Lord, and you figure that even if you go to heaven, surely Jesus does not have much use for you now on earth.
  - You are wrong!
  - We live in a throw away culture.
    - Something breaks or loses its brilliance
    - We don't fix it; We don't clean it up and polish it.
    - We throw it away.
    - I'm not here complaining about our lack of frugality.
    - I'm saying that too often we do the same with people.
    - When people offend us or disappoint us
    - We too often discard our broken or damaged relationship and seek to replace it with another.
    - Too many do this in marriage, but we do this with friendships as well.
  - My point is that Jesus does not do that.
  - Jesus appeared to Peter before any of the other disciples, even before He appeared to the disciple known as the disciple Jesus loved.

- Dear friend, if you are a lost sinner, and you think you are too big a sinner to come to Jesus, you are mistaken. Jesus' arms are open wide to receive you and forgive you and transform you.
- If you are a Christian, but you have denied Jesus, forsaken the Lord, even betrayed your Savior, and you think that you are of no use to the Master anymore, you too are mistaken.

**John 6:37 NKJV** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Then Jesus ZOOMED over to two believers who have just left Jerusalem to walk seven miles to a village called Emmaus.

I say ZOOMED because what do you call it when someone in a glorified, resurrection body who can appear at one place one moment and the next moment appear many miles away? I just say He ZOOMED!

So, a believer named Cleopas and a friend who have earlier been with the disciples are walking together down this road talking about all that had happened when Jesus approaches them and joins them on their walk, but they do not recognize Him.

Remember, I told you, that the resurrection body of Jesus was the same as His previous body, only different. People recognized Him, but not always at first.

Listen, and follow the story in the text with me.

**Luke 24:13–48 NKJV** 13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. 17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. 22 Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. 23 When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 24 And certain of those *who were* with us

went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. 30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

34 saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” 40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took *it* and ate in their presence. 44 Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things.

**Now we can see what Jesus was doing.** We see why Luke summarized the appearances of Jesus the way he did in the beginning of Acts.

## **Jesus was training/equipping His witnesses to tell people about the THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.**

- **Through the Scriptures**

Jesus did this by showing the Old Testament references and prophecies of Messiah were all about Him!

And He was training them by offering

- **Many infallible proofs**

- Jesus disappears suddenly from the presence of Cleopas and his friend.
- Just as suddenly Jesus appears with those two after they have re-joined the disciples.
- Immediately they think Jesus is a disembodied spirit. So Jesus lets them see and touch the scars in His hands and side.
- Jesus eats with them, so they understand that He is in His resurrection body.

Now Thomas isn't there. So eight days later

Over the next several weeks, Jesus continues to appear to the disciples and to others. We know about some of these appearances, but there are probably others that happened that are not recorded in the Scriptures.

Just like John explained that he did not try to write about all that Jesus said and did. He wrote as the Holy Spirit inspired him for the purpose of helping people believe that Jesus is the Christ, and so that by trusting in Him they could have eternal life.

So not only the things that benefit us to know did the Spirit inspire the gospel writers to record.

The next thing they tell us about is after some of the disciples have gone fishing back on their favorite lake called the Sea of Galilee or Lake Tiberius.

**John 21:1–11 NKJV 1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:**

**2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also."**

**They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did**

not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." 6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

Now we're going to skip down to the last half of verse 11.

11 ... large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

Why does the Holy Spirit prompt John to tell us that at Jesus' command, they caught 153 fish? What is the significance of 153 fish?

I will tell you next week.

Yes, I know. I said I had five sermons on the THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.

Well, I did. Now I have six. Look, it took me four sermons to cover three days. So do you really expect me to cover forty days in one sermon?

We have all we are able to chew on right now anyway.

What was Jesus doing for the forty days He stayed on the earth after the resurrection?

He was training His witnesses.

- Proving He was the Son of God, the promised Messiah, by pointing out all the ways He had fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.
- Giving them proof, up close and personal, that He was risen from the dead and had a new resurrection body.

Jesus was wanting His followers to be telling everyone about THE THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.