

JESUS IS RESURRECTED AND RESPECTED

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus was physically raised from the dead and realize what value that is to us.

Suggestion: The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: The followers of Jesus had counted on Him to be their King, but when He was crucified their hope was dashed. Disappointment and confusion ruled their hearts. But when Sunday dawned, a few followers began to see Jesus in His resurrected body. That evening Jesus appeared to most of His closest followers that were in Jerusalem. When they saw Him in His resurrected body, they understood that He had conquered death and had the greatest power of any king. Their hope was revived. He was their great King and they would reign with Him. "Because I live, you shall live also" (Jn 14:19).

Why was Mary Magdalene's concern about the body of Jesus unnecessary? 20:1-13

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the stone that covered the opening to the tomb had been rolled back, leaving the tomb open. She concluded that Jesus' body had been stolen and ran back to tell Peter and John the bad news. She returned to the tomb and looked inside and saw two angels who asked her, "Why are you weeping?" Jesus had foretold them on three occasions that He would rise from the dead on the third day (Mk 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34). Jesus kept His promise. It was a time to rejoice. It is apparent that neither she nor anyone else believed that Jesus would literally rise from the dead (20:9). Many of our concerns would vanish if we took God's promises literally.

Why did Jesus say, "My Father and Your Father," instead of saying our Father? 20:17

The double reference to "Father" does not refer to different Fathers, but to a different relationship with the same Father. Jesus is the eternal Son of God. All believers become His sons and daughters when they trust in Jesus to be their Savior. There are many "sons" of God, but Jesus is the unique, one-of-a-kind, Son of God.

Why did Jesus say, "My God and Your God," instead of saying our God? 20:17

This statement has to do with authority. God will put all His enemies under the feet of Jesus, even Satan, who is the prince of this world (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). Christians are under the authority of Jesus and have been set free from Satan's authority. Jesus is under God's direct authority and Christians are under God's authority through Jesus until He puts all those under Him to be under God's direct authority (1 Cor 15:24-28). So Jesus' authority under God is greater than the Christian's authority under God, so Jesus could say, "My God and your God."

How do we receive the forgiveness of our sins? 20:23

Jesus said all believers could remit and retain sins (Lk 24:13-48), not only the apostles. Jesus said they were to declare what God had already done to the sins of believers and unbelievers. The verbs "remitted" and "retained" are in the Greek perfect tense, which means the act is done once, but the result continues. God treats people's sins according to the way they treat His Son. He forgives now and forever the sins of those that receive His Son as Savior. He fastens the sins on those that refuse to receive His Son. On the basis of what sinners do with Jesus, believers know what God does with their sins. If sinners receive Jesus as Savior, believers can declare their sins have been forgiven. If they refuse to receive Jesus as Savior, believers can declare their sins have been fastened to them. They simply declare what God has already done. The word "are" in this verse would better be translated "have been" so it does not sound like any believer can forgive sins or refuse to forgive sins. Then the verse will read: "Whose sins you remit, they have been remitted to them; and whose sins you retain, they have been retained." Peter did not say he would forgive the sins of the people in Cornelius' house, but God appointed Jesus to be the Judge to forgive the sins of all believers (Acts 10:42-43).