

Improved  
Uniform  
International  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
LESSON

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The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

## Lesson for March 28

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## THE APPEARANCES AFTER THE RESURRECTION

LESSON TEXT—John 20:19-31.  
GOLDEN TEXT—I am alive for evermore—Revelation 1:18.

The most important day in all history was the first day of the week following the crucifixion of Christ. Then He appeared to His disciples as their risen Lord. All the hope of all mankind for all eternity depended on His victory over death.

By eventide news had come to the disciples of His resurrection, and half in hope and half in uncertainty they had gathered to talk over these matters. Fearful of the Jews, they met behind closed doors. All at once He was there—the Lord Himself. What a wonderful change came over them as He made Himself known to them. They went

I. From Fear to Gladness (vv. 19-20).

Their eyes had been upon their enemies and they were afraid. Now they "were glad, when they saw the Lord." We need to learn that lesson. If we look within we are ashamed and discouraged. If we look around us we are confused and fearful. If we look to Christ we are glad and strong.

Notice that their joy was not based only on an emotional impulse. They saw Christ in His resurrection body—the very One who had died. The evidence was there before them. Now they could understand the things He had said to them. The whole realm of spiritual truth was now in focus again, and they were glad. So are we when we really see Christ.

II. From Weakness to Strength (vv. 21-23).

The disciples who were called to be witnesses for Christ had lost their testimony when He died on the cross. Unbelief and discouragement had so weakened them that they were in hiding instead of being out proclaiming His truth.

Now the risen and victorious One sent them forth with the Father's blessing. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit, and given great authority (v. 23). Note that it was given not to one man or to the leaders, but to all the disciples. It was "a declarative right, and it belongs to every true disciple. Those who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit are in a position to declare to men that their sincere repentance brings forgiveness" (Douglas). The opposite is also true.

III. From Doubt to Faith (vv. 24-28).

Thomas, who had doubts and who cultivated them by his stubborn attitude (v. 29), did himself and his brethren a serious disservice by being absent from the meeting on the evening of the first Easter Day. When he did appear he had only doubts to contribute. Let those who make a custom of absenting themselves from the place and hour of service beware lest they do likewise.

His doubts were honest ones—and God always meets such questions, honestly and intelligently. When the evidence was before him, the heart of Thomas leaped the chasm from doubt to faith in one cry of complete devotion (v. 29).

It is significant that down through the ages many doubters have been won to Christ by the proof of the resurrection of Christ, which is by the testimony of historical scholars "the best authenticated fact in all history." The risen Christ stands before men today and says, "Be not faithless but believing." Many respond with Thomas, "My Lord and my God."

IV. From Death to Life (vv. 29-31).

Christ arose from the dead not just to show that He had power to do so, but, as Paul puts it, "for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). The reality and dependability of the entire plan of salvation hinged on the return of Christ from the dead. Had the grave held Him, His claims of deity and of the ability to forgive sin would have been entirely discredited. Because He lives we shall live.

The experience of regeneration is therefore likened in Scripture to a passing from death to life (John 3:36). Thomas saw the Lord, and believing, passed from doubt to faith. We cannot see Him now, but we have the blessed privilege of believing and thus receiving life (vv. 29, 31).

This was the message which the now radiant and empowered disciples went out to preach. The book of Acts tells us how effectively they did, and shows how much of their preaching centered on the fact of the resurrection.

The command and the commission was not to them alone, but also to all of us who believe in Christ. May God take out of us the fear of men, overcome our weakness, and send us out with renewed faith to make this life-giving message known to our fellow men.

# COME TO CHURCH

## Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

Creamed comments on the Sunday School lesson, "Our Lord's Intercessory Prayer."—John 17:1-26 for Sunday, March 21.

With humility and with a profound feeling of unworthiness we approach the attempt to explain Christ's wonderful prayer for himself, his disciples, and the world.

v. 1. These spake Jesus; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son may glorify thee." "The hour is come" is a statement we will all have to make, but, in that, it is possible to glorify God; it is then that Christ's character counts.

v. 2. "Even as thou gavest him authority over all flesh, that to all whom thou hast given him, he should give eternal life." Note Christ's gratitude for the privilege of passing on to his disciples the precious gift of eternal life. It is the last of life for which the first was made. Jesus wants that all end well.

v. 3. "And this is life eternal, that they should know thee, the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, even Jesus Christ." Life eternal is more than immortal living; it is a quality of life here and now. There is a knowledge that passeth all understanding, the possession of truths and the experiences of compelling evidences of God and his will.

v. 4. "I glorify thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do." Doing God's will glorifies him. If we would do God's will we must perform work for him—a work for which we are best fitted.

v. 5. "And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory I had with thee before the world was." Jesus now looks forward to a glorious home-going and enjoying the fellowship of the God-head from all eternity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

v. 6. "I manifested thy name unto the men whom thou gavest me out of the world, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word." It was Christ's purpose to reveal to men the true character of God as a loving and holy father. This was first done to the inner circle who could best understand and were the most willing to respond to his will.

v. 7, 8. "Now they know that all things whatsoever thou hast given me I have given unto them, and knew of a truth that I came from thee, and they believed that thou didst send me." His teachings which we often declared had come from God had been delivered to the disciples and were truly received as such; they first held the truth and now the truth holds them.

v. 18. "As thou didst send me into the world, even so send I them into the world." As God commissioned Christ to go forth into the world to proclaim salvation to all men, so Jesus commissions his disciples to do the same.

v. 19. "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified." The first "sanctify" means that Christ set himself apart for the redemption of mankind; the second time this word is used it means that the disciples are not only to be set apart for Christian service but that they are to be purified also.

v. 20. "Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word."

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### CHURCHES

First Presbyterian Church  
Five Points  
George O. Walton, minister

9:00 a. m.—Junior Bible hour  
Mrs. W. A. Lower.

9:30 a. m.—Morning worship. Sermon, "The New Testament Church With It Back to the Wall." Text, "Consider Him, lest ye faint in your minds."

5:30 p. m.—Youth league.

The confirmation class will meet Monday afternoon at 3:45.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

First Mass.....6:00 A. M.

Second Mass.....7:30 A. M.

Children's Mass.....9:00 A. M.

Holy Mass.....10:15 A. M.

Holy Hour Sunday.....2:30 P. M.

Communion Sunday for the St. Mary's Society.

Tuesday Lenten Sermon 7:30 P. M.

Friday Way of Cross 7:30 P. M.

Rev. Joseph J. Seilmetz, Pastor

First Evangelical Church

George S. Lozier, Minister

9:15 a. m.—Sunday school. Mr. Gregg McFarland, superintendent.

10:10 a. m.—Divine Worship service. Sermon theme: "The Merciful."

10:10 a. m.—Mission Band and Little Heralds.

6:00 p. m.—Intermediate and Senior Christian Endeavor.

7:00 p. m.—Sunday Evening Fellowship. Sermon theme: "How Strong Am I?"

7:00 p. m., Wednesday—Prayer and praise service.

Christian Church

Kenneth Timmons, pastor

Bible School, 9:30 a. m. D. L. Drum, superintendent.

Morning worship, 10:30 a. m. Sermon subject, "Salvation for a Mad World."

11 a. m.—Junior church.

Evening services, 7:30. Bible study in Revelations.

Church of God

Glen Marshall, Pastor

9:30-11:20 Unified service. The pastor will bring the message on the theme "Keeping the Soul on Top."

Worship services are provided for the boys and girls as well as for the adults and youth.

6:30—Shining Lights. A service for the boys and girls. Mrs. Edith Smiley, leader.

6:30—Christian Crusaders. A service for youth fellowship. Miss Pauline Hawkins, president.

7:30—Evening Evangelistic service. This will be the closing service of the present revival campaign.

The public is most cordially invited to attend all the services of this congregation.

First Evangelical and Reformed

William C. Feller, Pastor

Sunday school at 9:00 a. m. T. L. Becker, superintendent.

Classes for all ages under capable teacher.

Worship service at 10:00 a. m.

Sermon: "Vicarious Suffering."

The young people will meet at 6:30 p. m. Sunday for a reorganization meeting. All young people of the church are invited.

Midweek Lenten service. Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. Meditation by the pastor: "The Friend of Sinners."

Combined choir rehearsal at 8:30 p. m. on Wednesday, following the midweek service.

The Circles of the Women's Guild will meet on Thursday.

2:00 p. m. Ruth and Naomi Circle in the church parlor.

8:00 p. m. Philanthropic Circle in the home of Mrs. M. F. Worthman.

8:00 p. m. Bethany Circle in the home of Mrs. A. Bruswiller.

8:00 p. m. Friendship Circle in the home of Mrs. Homer Barton.

If you are without a church home in the city we cordially invite you to worship with us.

Nuttman Ave. U. S. Church

Delbert Cress, pastor

9:30 a. m.—Sunday school. Lawrence Michel, superintendent.

10:30 a. m.—Worship service.

Sermon by pastor.

6:30 p. m.—Christian Endeavor.

7:30 p. m.—Evangelistic service.

Message by pastor.

7:30 p. m. Wednesday—Midweek prayer service.

We invite you to come worship with us in these services.

First United Brethren Church

R. Wilson, minister

Sunday school, 9:15 a. m. Curtis Hill, superintendent.

Worship, 10:30 a. m. Sermon,

"The Sign of the Cross."

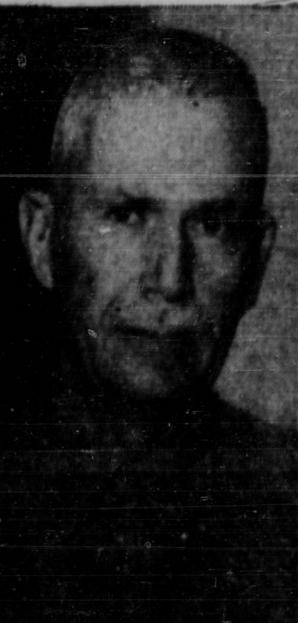
C. E. at 6:30 p. m.

Evening worship, 7:30 p. m.

Bible study Monday evening at 7:30 p. m.

Orchestra practice, prayer meeting and choir practice Wednesday

### General Weds



evening at 6:15, 7 and 8 o'clock.

Attend the church of your choice every Sunday. If we are fighting for this privilege, why not use it?

First Baptist Church

Carey R. Moser, pastor

9:30 a. m.—Bible school. Classes you will enjoy. C. E. Bell, superintendent.

10:15 a. m.—Morning worship.

Special music. Sermon theme, "God's All-Out Program." There will be no Junior church until next Sunday morning due to the redecorating of the auditorium. But parents, bring your children with you into the morning worship service. We enjoy seeing them there.

5:30 p. m.—Youth league.

The confirmation class will meet Monday afternoon at 3:45.