

# Faith, Love, Revelation, and the Resurrection

---

## I. We encounter the risen Christ by faith and by revelation of God's love.

- A. The first Christians struggled to recognize the resurrected Jesus (John 20:1-18).
  - 1. Jesus appeared to the disciples (Luke 24:36-49).
  - 2. Jesus appeared to Thomas (John 20:24-29).
- B. It is reasonable to assume that an all-powerful Creator can design the rules of encounter with Himself (John 20:29; Hebrews 11:6). Faith is big!
- C. The Scriptures are alive and are a part of God's plan to help you encounter Jesus (John 20:30-31; Hebrews 4:12-13).

## II. Faith happens when God works with a receptive heart.

- A. A heart of love and tenderness is the opposite of what Jesus calls a "calloused heart" (Matthew 13:10-15).
  - 1. God's supernatural love leads us to deep revelation of Jesus (John 5:19-20).
  - 2. John, Peter, and Mary Magdalene were the first to believe that Jesus had resurrected from the dead (John 20:1-18).
  - 3. Mary was especially tender toward Jesus, because He had healed and delivered her from her past (Luke 8:1-3).
  - 4. We see the secret of Jesus' ministry reflected in Mary (John 5:19-20).
- B. A hungry heart always leads to a revelation of Jesus.
  - 1. Jesus wants to be found (Luke 11:9-13; Proverbs 25:2).
  - 2. When your heart starts to burn, press for more (Luke 24:25-32).
- C. A calloused heart can be blinded to the obvious power of God (Mark 8:14-21).

## III. God continually challenges us to believe in the obvious revelation of Himself (John 20:24-29).

- A. Jesus is the most influential person of all time.
- B. The facts of Jesus' life and teachings are the most reliably documented biography of any person in antiquity.
- C. Humanity is left in the uncomfortable position of having to believe Jesus is the resurrected Son of God, or else a liar, or a lunatic (Luke 22:66-71; John 14:6).
- D. Over 300 Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.
- E. Jesus wants to reveal Himself to everyone. If your heart is burning even a little, don't put out the fire by hardening your heart.
- F. It makes no sense to gamble that the claims of Jesus might not be real. His promise is eternal life (John 20:30-31).

*Mike Hudgins  
Easter, 2023*