

When
Jesus
Appears

**For 2100 years the
Kingdom has grown
one person at a time**



When Jesus Appears...





John 20”1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance...

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.



Jesus appeared to Mary

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” ... ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.



Jesus appeared to Mary

- Brokenhearted
- Needed to be alone
- Jesus appeared
- She didn't recognize Him at first
- He called her by name
- "I have seen the Lord"



John 20:24 **Now Thomas ...was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”**

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later...



Jesus appeared to the 12

...his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



Jesus appeared to the 12

- A week went by
- Jesus appeared to his disciples
- Welcomed the doubter
- Hadn't experienced Jesus' raised life like all his other friends
- Just couldn't get his head around it
- Seemed to fantastic
- Jesus provided a way for him to believe
 - Put your fingers in the nail holes/my side





- **1 Cor 15: 4 “...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to (Peter) and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.” NIV**



Jesus appeared to the 500

- Paul; In A.D. 55, (NIV) says most are still alive
 - If they were 17 at time of Jesus' death in A.D. 33, they are 39 years old
 - 500 people saw Jesus
 - Some undeniable way we don't know
- He appeared to the one in a crowd and it got a grip on the person that never left



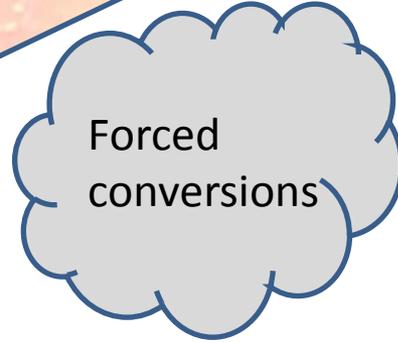
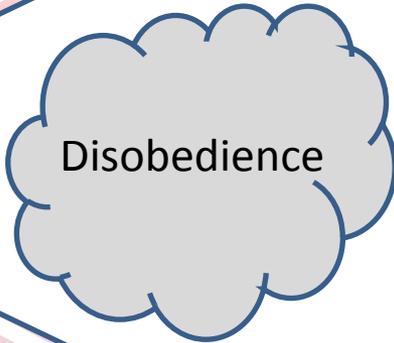
multitude

**Jesus appeared
to a multitude**





**The Kingdom of God
is like yeast.**



**The Kingdom of
God Advances**

Jesus appeared to a multitude

- **Rev 7:⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:**
- **“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”**



Jesus appeared to a multitude

- **Changed lives changed the world**
- **"The countless number of people transformed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the early years of Christianity was nothing short of phenomenal. The effects of those transformations were equally phenomenal. Christ's followers produced revolutionary changes—socially, politically, economically, and culturally. As George Sarton has said, "The birth of Christianity changed forever the face of the Western world."**



Jesus appeared to a multitude

- Christ's transformed followers, especially during the first few centuries, effected that change because Christ's life and teachings challenged "almost everything for which the Roman world had stood." And what Christianity changed, says Christopher Dawes, marked "the beginning of a new era in world history." Or, in the words of Nathan Söderblom, without Christ's resurrection "the entire history of the world since the coming of Christ would have to be fundamentally altered." Schmidt



Throughout history people have been encountering Jesus one by one

- Mary, the broken hearted
- Thomas,- left out of his group of friends
- One of the crowd of 500; still impacted
- One by one; your own story
- **The Resurrection- the central event in all of history**
 - The Kingdom of God came
 - The Kingdom continues
 - Through changed lives
- What impact will your changed life make?



Everything about our culture is predicated upon the avoidance of pain, suffering and discomfort. Consequently, the Church's greatest temptation is a logic of cheap grace which suggests we can reap the benefits of resurrection without having to endure the persecution of co-crucifixion.

by Dominique DuBois Gilliard



So What?

- **If you have never encountered Jesus**
- **Today is the day**
 - **Your sins forgiven**
 - **Your life changes; the Holy Spirit indwells**
 - **Your sin nature begins to bother you**
 - **You begin the process of sanctification**
 - **Your search for your purpose intensifies**



So What?

- **If you have encountered Jesus**
- **Today is the day to get serious**
 - **To live in your forgiveness**
 - **The Holy Spirit indwells in you for service**
 - **Your search for your purpose intensifies**
 - **What is God's Spirit nagging at you to change?**
 - **Yourself?**
 - **A wrong in the culture that needs righted?**
 - **A weakness in the church that needs built up?**
 - **The world has changed one person at a time,**
 - **Let's get busy changing the world**



He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

