

THE GREAT REALITY OF JESUS' RESURRECTED BODY JOHN 21:01–14

Introduction

Jesus proved the great reality of His resurrected body. He showed that He really did arise from the dead. Death had been conquered and men could now live forever.

- I. Jesus appeared again (vv. 1-3).
- II. Jesus stood on the shore — bodily (v. 4).
- III. Jesus possessed supernatural knowledge (vv. 5-8).
- IV. Jesus showed the reality of the surroundings (v. 9).
- V. Jesus showed that He could see, speak, hear, and feel (vv. 10-11).
- VI. Jesus showed that His body was real (vv. 12-13).
- VII. Conclusion: Jesus' resurrection was affirmed (v. 14).

I. *John 21:01–03 Jesus Appeared Again*

Jesus showed Himself (See *The Resurrected Body of Jesus Christ*, Jn. 21:l). Note four things.

1. The word “afterward” refers to the proof of Jesus' resurrection already recorded (Jn. 20:1-31).
2. Seven disciples were together. They were apparently in some home continuing to hide for fear of the authorities. They were scared and fearful of the authorities who had vented so much wrath and vengeance upon their Lord. There was the imminent danger they could be arrested and imprisoned or executed as revolutionaries just as Jesus had been (Jn.20:19).
3. Peter went fishing to meet the need for food. Note that the others decided to join him and that they went under the cover of darkness and off on some lonely strand of beach (vv. 3, 9-14). In the sovereignty of God, the small band of men needed to learn a glorious lesson, so God was setting the stage for them to receive the lesson.
4. They caught nothing, and it was in this that they were to learn the much needed lesson: self-sufficiency is inadequate. They could no longer do anything on their own. They must know the risen Lord, and they must depend upon the risen Lord. They could not provide for themselves in their own strength; they must know that the Lord is really risen, and they must learn to depend upon Him.

Jesus used this experience of catching nothing to teach the disciples that He had truly risen. It was He in the resurrected body. He was truly the Risen Lord, and it was He upon whom they must depend from now on.

JOHN 21:01 THE RESURRECTED BODY OF JESUS CHRIST

“Jesus Christ appeared again.” The purpose of His appearances was to prove that Jesus was not a spirit, vision, phantom, hallucination or any other figment of man’s imagination.

He was the risen Lord – bodily. He was not someone else. His body was none other than the body of Jesus, the Carpenter from Nazareth. He had been raised from the dead – physically raised. His body was real. It differed, yes; but it was His body – perfected, no longer subject to the limitations and frailties of the physical universe and its laws. It was His body which was now transformed into a spiritual body by the power of God’s Word (see Rom. 1:3-4).

How did the Lord’s body differ since His resurrection? Some idea can be gleaned by looking both at His resurrected body and at the glorified body promised to the believer.

1. The resurrected body of the Lord was His body, but it was radically changed. It had all the appearance of His physical body, yet it was not bound by the physical world and its material substance.
 - a. It looked like the same material body, the same “flesh and bones,” not some other body. It was a body that bore the marks of the nails in His hands and feet (Jn. 20:20, 27). It was a body that appeared and looked like a body and that occupied space.
 - b. It was a body that could travel and appear any place at will or by thought, a body unhampered by space, time, or physical substance. When He appeared, it was suddenly, even behind locked doors (Lk. 24:36; Jn. 20:19).
 - c. It was a body that differed enough from the earthly body, that it was not clearly recognized, not at first, not until it was closely observed.

=> Mary Magdalene thought He was the gardener (Jn. 20:15).

=> The two disciples walking toward Emmaus thought He was a traveller (Lk. 24:31).

=> The disciples who were fishing did not recognize Him standing on the seashore (Jn. 21:4).

However, after close observation, the Lord was recognized in all these instances. This probably indicates that our heavenly bodies will look like our earthly bodies, differing only in that they are perfected.

2. The resurrected and glorified body that is promised to the believer gives some additional insight into the kind of body Jesus now has. One of the most wonderful promises ever made to man is given in the words:

=> “Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Phil. 3:21; see Mt. 13:43; Rom. 8:17; Col. 3:4; Rev. 22:5).

=> We will be “conformed to the likeness of His Son” (Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:49; 2 Cor. 3:18.)

=> “We shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” (1 Jn. 3:2).

The body of the believer is to undergo a radical change just as the Lord's body was radically changed. Several changes are promised the believer.

a. The believer will receive a spiritual body.

1 Cor 15:44 *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*

Note that the *spiritual body* (soma) is still a body just like the *earthly body* (soma). The spiritual body still retains the qualities of the earthly body. The difference lies in its nature: it will no longer be a natural (soulish) body; it will be spiritual. What does this mean? In essence, the body will be perfected and glorified: no longer subject to aging, deterioration, death, decay, pain, tears, sorrow or crying (Rev. 14:4).

=> “The body that is sown is perishable [corruptible], it is raised imperishable [incorruptible].”

=> “It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory.”

=> “It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.”

=> “It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.”

Note the strong, emphatic declaration: “*There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body*” (1 Cor. 15:42-44).

b. The believer will receive a body that is *not flesh and blood*. Flesh and blood are corruptible; they age, deteriorate, die, and decay.

1 Cor 15:50 *I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

Acts 13:36-37 *For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.*

Eccl 3:20 *All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return.*

1 Cor 15:42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.

2 Cor 5:1-2 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.

- c. The believer will receive a body that will be radically changed.

1 Cor 15:52-53 In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

- d. The believer will be given a body that will not need reproduction for continuing the (redeemed) human race.

Mat 22:30 "At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven." □

II. *John 21:04 Bodily Presence of Jesus Christ*

Jesus stood on the shore – bodily.

1. His presence was immediate, sudden, unexpected.
2. His presence was bodily, that is, His body stood there. It was morning, and the disciples saw a person just as they would see any other person standing on the seashore. There was no thought of a vision, hallucination or spirit. They saw a person on the seashore and thought nothing strange about it. Note: they did not know it was Jesus, not at first sight.

III. *John 21:05–08 Supernatural Knowledge of Jesus Christ*

Jesus possessed supernatural knowledge. Jesus knew where the fish were. Remember the disciples had been commercial fishermen before their call to serve the Lord. Jesus was teaching that He, the risen Lord, was the same Lord who took care of them before the crucifixion; therefore, He would take care of them now. But there was one significant difference that they must learn.

The resurrection increased His care and added much more to their salvation. He, the risen Lord, was the sovereign majesty of the universe who could use His sovereign knowledge to provide all things for His dear children (see Mt. 6:25-34).

Now note: John knew immediately that it was the Lord. However, it was the miracle of knowing where the fish were, the Lord's supernatural sovereign knowledge, that told John.

John 16:30 *Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.*

The response was exactly what it should have been. Peter clothed himself and jumped into the lake and swam to shore. The other disciples followed in the boat.

Thought 1. When men hear that Jesus is really alive — that He is the Sovereign Majesty of the universe — they should do just what these men did: rush to Him as quickly as possible.

Acts 2:24 *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

Rom 4:25 *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

Rom 10:9 *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

1 Th 4:14 *We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*

1 Pet 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

Thought 2. Every genuine believer experiences the supernatural care of the risen Lord. The believer knows the sovereign knowledge and care of the Lord in his own life (Mt. 6:25-34).

IV. John 21:09 The Reality of the Surroundings

Jesus showed the reality of the surroundings. Note the land and fire, the fish and bread. He was showing that He was the same Jesus who had always been with them. He was not a figment of their imagination, not a vision, not even a spirit. He was in a body just like the body they had always known.

Mat 14:27 *But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”*

V. John 21:10–11 Proof: Jesus Christ is a Normal Man

Jesus showed that He could see, speak, hear, and feel. He instructed the disciples to gather in the fish, instructing them just as He always had. They obeyed, even to the point of counting the fish. Jesus was heaping proof upon proof, giving the disciples indisputable evidence of His resurrection.

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

VI. John 21:12–13 Evidence: The Body of Jesus Christ is Real

Jesus showed that His body was real. He invited them to eat and He ate with them, just as He always had. Again, the point is that they must *know* it was Jesus. The risen Lord was the same Jesus who had walked and lived with them, the only difference was that He had risen from the dead in a perfected and glorified body.

Note: The disciples knew beyond question that it was the Lord. Humanly, it was not supposed to be; a dead man arising from the grave was impossible. The physical and material world knew nothing but corruption and decay, sin and death. But seated there eating with them was Jesus. He had risen from the dead and come back to life again. They knew that death was now conquered and that man could now live forever (Jn. 20:31).

They knew just what Jesus wanted them to know. They knew the great reality of His resurrected body and the great reality of His sovereign majesty and care for them in conquering death.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 5:24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

2 Tim 1:10 But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Rev 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

VII. John 21:14 Affirmation of Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus' resurrection was affirmed by John. Remember why John was writing.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 4:20 "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

2 Cor 4:13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak. ■