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In today's message, preacher Rahul Nirmal talks about the appearances of Jesus after Jesus had been crucified on a cross (killed as Romans executed prisoners at the time), then had his body put into a tomb. This all had happened on Friday. At sundown that Friday, Jesus' Jewish followers began observing the 24-hour period of Sabbath rest.

As soon as the Sabbath was over Saturday evening and the sun rising that Sunday morning, some of Jesus' close female followers were on their way to the tomb to anoint his body with spices and oils. They were the first to discover that Jesus' body was missing. This began a number of appearances of the risen Jesus, with the first written sighting recorded in the Bible as being by Jesus' closest female disciple, Mary Magdalene.

Some of the sightings are recorded in the New Testament books of the Bible that are listed below. The first four books of the New Testament contain four accounts of Jesus' time on earth: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books are often called the "Gospels," meaning Good News, because they tell of the Good News of God's redeeming love that Jesus came to share with the world, and to sacrifice his own life for.

Did you know that "Jesus" (*Jeshua*) was the birth name of the one who was also called by the title *Messiah* (in Hebrew) and *Christus/Christ* (in Greek)? The closest English meaning of this word is "anointed one."

Our preacher mentions in his sermon appearances of Jesus to Mary Magdalene, Thomas, the disciples in hiding, and the disciples on the seashore. The scriptures for these are shown in Part B, below.

- A. You can read more about Jesus' appearances after his death and resurrection in these New Testament books and chapter. You might want to write a few notes about your impressions of the accounts in each place. If you have a chance to study with a group, each take a scripture, read and discuss what you discover in each.

[Matthew 28](#)

[Mark 16](#)

[Luke 24](#)

[John 20, 21](#)

1. What questions do these verses leave with you?
2. Choose one person that you read about in these scriptures, and think about what it was like for them as they were first coming to that Jesus had risen from the dead.
3. What do you observe in the scriptures about Jesus' followers from the time of his death to the time of seeing him again face to face? How did this change them? How do you think it would have changed you?
4. If you are a follower of Jesus the Christ, think about the first times you heard about Jesus, whether as a child, youth, or adult--then think of now. How has your understanding of Jesus changed? How have you changed because of this understanding? How would you like to change?



B. Here are scripture references to some of the accounts discussed in today's sermon. Some you may have already looked at in the scriptures studied in Part A.

1. Mary Magdalene

John 20:1-18,
Matthew 27:55-61, 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-8 (9),
Luke 8:1-3,
Luke 24:10

2. Disciples on the way to Emmaus

Luke 24: 13-32
Mark 16:12-13

3. Jesus' disciples hiding after his death

John 20:19

4. Thomas the disciple

John 20:24-29

5. The disciples, especially Peter, for breakfast by the sea

John 21

C. After the four Gospel accounts of Jesus life, New Testament books are devoted to the teachings of disciples about Jesus and accounts of Jesus followers as they form the church and begin sharing the Good News beyond their own communities. Here are two scriptures that talk about Jesus after the resurrection:

Acts 1:1-11
I Corinthians 15:1-8

D. Jesus' presence with the people of the world did not end with his death, or even with his ascension into heaven after his post-resurrection appearances. Through centuries, people have been able to sense and feel the living presence of Jesus in their own lives: guiding, teaching, comforting, challenging. People can know the presence of Jesus Christ, of God and the Holy Spirit that speaks of living within believers to comfort and guide us. Others see the work of Jesus as Jesus' disciples faithfully serve this living Christ as his hands, feet, heart, and mind in the world today.

1. What about you? How does the living Christ appear to you?
2. What difference do you see that making in your life? In the world?
3. What is Christ calling you to do today?