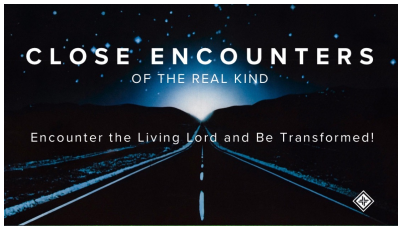
NEW LIFE CLASS

BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN BIBLICAL LEARNING AND RADICAL LIVING



5.20.2018
Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

What Happens When a Peaceful Phlegmatic Encounter the Risen Christ?

A Close Encounter with Living Faith • Part 1

Lesson 5

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE REAL KIND WITH THE RISEN LORD *He Meets Us Where We Are but Never Leaves Us Where He Finds Us!*			
WHO	**MARY MAGDALENE** *A* **COMPASSIONATE** *Christ Follower* *Devoted but Disheartened* *John 20:1-18*	**THE EMMAUS DISCIPLES** **CONFUSED** *Christ Followers* *Dedicated but Depressed* *Luke 24:13--35*	**THOMAS AND THE TEN** **CONFLICTED** *Christ Followers* *Disciples but Doubting and Difficult* *John 20:19-28; cf. Luke 24:36-48*
WHAT	*A Close Encounter of the* **EMOTIONAL KIND** *An Appearance that Appeals to* **POPULAR SANGUINES**	*A Close Encounter of the* **UNDERSTANDING KIND** *An Appearance that Appeals to* **PERFECT MELANCHOLIES**	*A Close Encounter of the* **MOTIVATING KIND** *An Appearance that Appeals to* **PEACEFUL PHLEGMATICS**
WHEN	*First Resurrection Sunday* **EARLY MORNING**	*First Resurrection Sunday* **LATE AFTERNOON**	*First Resurrection Sunday* **LATE EVENING**
WHERE	*In a Garden Cemetery* *Before an Empty Tomb* ***A PLACE of DEAD HOPES***	*On a Road* *Headed in the Wrong Direction* ***A PATH of DEAD-END REASONING***	*In a Room* *Locked from the Inside* ***A PRISON of DEADLY STUBBORNNESS***
HOW	*Jesus Is Seen as a* **GARDENER/CARETAKER** *Who Should've Taken Care of the Dead Body of Her Teacher!*	*Jesus Is Seen as a* **STRANGER/FELLOW TRAVELER** *Who Should've Understood the Big Picture and Be Depressed Over the Missing Piece of the Missing Person!*	**What Happens When a Peaceful Phlegmatic Encounters the Risen Christ?** Whatever happens it's going to be ***MOTIVATING!*** **John 20:19-28**
WHY	*Jesus Asks an* **OBVIOUS QUESTION** for a **REVEALING PURPOSE** *"WHY Are You WEEPING? WHOM are you SEEKING?"* *Jesus Confronts Her* **DEAD HOPES!** *All He Has to Say Is:* **"MARY!"**	*Jesus Asks a* **REASONABLE QUESTION** for a **REVEALING PURPOSE** *"WHAT Are You DEBATING? WHY So GLOOMY?"* *Jesus Confronts Their* **DEAD-END REASONING!** *All He Asks Is:* **"WHAT THINGS?"**	
SO WHAT	*She Responds by* **CALLING** *Him: Teacher and* **CLINGS** *to Him in an Emotional, Personal Way!* *Jesus Rebukes Her:* ***"STOP CLINGING TO ME AND START GOING FOR ME!"*** *SUBMIT to QUIET TIME & GO TIME!*	*They Respond by* **EXPLAINING** *the Details the Big Picture, the Missing Pieces, and* **WHY** *Things Are Not Fitting Together!* *Jesus Rebukes Them:* ***"FOOLS! START BELIEVING! BURDENED HEARTS CAN BECOME BURNING HEARTS!"*** *STUDY! SPEND! SEEK! SHARE! KNOW! GROW! SHOW! GO!*	

What Happens When a Peaceful Phlegmatic Encounters the Risen Christ?
John 20:19:28

1. A ROOM OF CONFLICTED FOLLOWERS: The Eleven Were Believing but <u>DOUBTING</u> *(19-25)* and Difficult *(26-31)* Disciples!

1. The ten were ***locked-out of faith*** in the Living Lord by **<u>FEAR</u>**. *John 20:19*

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➤ They were ***locked-out*** of an **OBEDIENT** ***faith***. *(Luke 24:11, 36-41)*

➤ They were ***locked-in*** by an **OVERWHELMING** ***fear***.

1) Fear of **FRIENDS & FOES.**
2) Fear of **FAILURE**
3) Fear of being **FORSAKEN**.

What Are You Afraid of Today?

What do you know right now God wants you to be or do––but fear keeps you locked inside?

2. Jesus appears in the midst of their fear to increase their faith by bringing them **PEACE**! *John 20:19-23*

Three Facts to Replace Fear with Faith in Conflicted Followers

➤ Jesus is ***always*** **PRESENT** with His followers in spite of all obstacles. (19-20)

➤ Jesus ***always*** has a **PURPOSE** for His followers to accomplish. (21)

➤ Jesus ***always*** has the **POWER** to enable His followers to succeed. *(vv. 22-23)*

3. Thomas is ***absent*** and ***chooses*** to be **DIFFICULT / UNBELIEVING / SKEPTICAL**. *John 20:24-25*

➤ "Doubting Thomas" is not present. *(v. 24)*

1) He was a ***pragmatist***. (20:24; 11:16)

Pragmatism A philosophy/movement...distinguished by the doctrine that the meaning of an idea or a proposition lies in its ***OBSERVABLE, PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES.***
A practical, matter-of-fact way of approaching or assessing situations or solving problems!

2) He was a ***pessimist***. (11:16; 14:5)

Pessimism A tendency to stress the negative or unfavorable or to take the gloomiest possible view.
An inclination to emphasize adverse aspects, conditions, and possibilities, or to expect the worst outcome.

3) He was a ***realist***. (20:25; 4:48; Hebrews 11:1)

Realism Concern for **FACT** or **REALITY** and **REJECTION** of the ***impractical*** (MARY) and ***visionary*** (CLEOPAS).

Realist One who is inclined to literal truth and pragmatism.

Existentialist A philosophy that emphasizes the **uniqueness** and **isolation** of **the individual experience** in a **hostile** or **indifferent universe**, regards **human existence** as **unexplainable**, and stresses **freedom of choice** and **responsibility** for the **consequences** of **one's acts**.

➤ "**DEMANDING** Thomas" did not believe. *(v. 25)*

1) He simply **CHOSE** not to.
2) He **SPIRIT/HEART/ATTITUDE** was wrong.
3) He ***still needs*** a **CONVICTING ENCOUNTER** with the risen Lord!

Thomas Will Be Honestly Confronted for a Humbling Purpose!

Is your heart troubled with conflicting feelings and thoughts about Jesus and His purpose for your life?
Have you settled into a state of stubborn unbelief?
Are you outwardly going through the motions of religion, but inwardly doing your own thing?
Are you off doing what you want to do, rather then where the Master wants you to be?
Are you locked-up in a prison of fear of your own making?

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

NEXT LESSON: Thomas Will Have a Close Encounter of the Motivating Kind!

How does the Risen Lord motivate a Stubborn Seeker to stop doubting and start believing?
It won't be easy, but it will bring peace to the troubled heart and stubborn will of the demanding!

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