

# Remember Christ Draw Near to the Cross



**7<sup>th</sup> Week**

March 26 to March 31, 2018

**Monday, March 26, 2018**

**John 20:11-18**

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

Time: Sunday early morning

Mary Magdalene was crying and sad (John 20:11, 13) as she thought someone had taken Jesus' body (John 20:2). Jesus appeared to Mary at that time. When Jesus called her name "Mary," she immediately recognized Jesus (John 20:16). It was a touching moment! After that Mary announced firmly to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

1. In the early morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb (John 20:1). Why was Mary thinking of Jesus? Do I long for Jesus?
2. Mary told the disciples that she saw Jesus and what Jesus said to her. Have I shared Jesus and His words with people lately?
3. The resurrection of Jesus is true! The Bible recorded that Mary (a common woman) was the first witness, she discovered the empty tomb and conversed with Jesus. Today how can I testify of the resurrected Lord?

Prayer: Pray for my heart to long for Jesus and for opportunity to testify of Jesus.

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**Tuesday, March 27, 2018**

**Luke 24:13-35**

Jesus on the road to Emmaus

Time: A.D. 30, Sunday afternoon

Integrating the records from the 4 gospel books, this was the third time that Jesus appeared to people after His resurrection. It is worthy to note that the two people (one of them named Cleopas) only knew that Jesus was a prophet mighty in deed and word, and was crucified on the cross. Later on Jesus interpreted the Scripture to them, opened their eyes, they then knew clearly "the Lord has risen indeed!"

1. Because of the scripture interpretation from Jesus, their hearts burned (Luke 24:32). Do I have the same eagerness to know the Word of God?
2. Regarding the teaching of Jesus' Gospel from the Old Testament to the New Testament, how much do I know? Do I want to set this goal for my own Bible study?
3. Due to their understanding of the Scripture and seeing Jesus, the two men rose immediately and returned to Jerusalem in testifying the resurrected Lord. What is my attitude in reading the Bible? Through reading the Bible, do I know God more and am I encouraged to testify and serve God?

Prayer: Pray for some Christians I know who are in doubt of Jesus. May the Lord strengthen their faith!

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**Wednesday, March 28, 2018**

**John 20:19-31**

Jesus appears to the Band of Disciples

Time: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evenings

These were the first and second appearances of Jesus to the band of disciples after His resurrection. It happened in two evenings on consecutive Sundays. Two main points from the two appearances of Jesus: First, Jesus breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent them as the Father sent His son; Second, after one week, Jesus was back to clear the doubt of Thomas and led him to believe. Thomas was not at Jesus' first appearance and he did not believe the testimony of other disciples.

1. Today, we receive the Holy Spirit once we believe the Gospel of Jesus. Do I follow the Holy Spirit? Or do I follow the flesh?
2. Do I still have any doubts concerning Jesus? May the Lord grant me faith!
3. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord at His first appearance (John 20:20). Today, if I am in distress and sadness, am I willing to draw near to Jesus and come out from the bottom of my emotional valley? May the Lord be my joy!

Prayer: May the Lord keep me in longing for his words, and know Him more through reading the Bible.

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**Thursday, March 29, 2018**

**John 20:1-25**

Jesus appears by the sea of Tiberias

Time: Within 40 days post-resurrection

This was the third appearance of Jesus to the band of disciples. Similar to the first and second appearance, there were two main points: First, through the fishing experience, the disciples learned that they could not rely on themselves, but on the might of Jesus; Second, Jesus built up Peter. Because Peter denied Jesus 3 times previously, now he got the chance to proclaim his love to Jesus 3 times. Jesus also called Peter to shepherd His sheep, and affirmed His acceptance and calling of Peter.

1. Do I rely on myself in living and serving, which leads to vain results? Let me return to Jesus and rely on His might, not my own power.
2. Do I have failure before Jesus like Peter? Am I discouraged in serving God? Let me rest and wait for Jesus to build me up and revive me.
3. Jesus called Peter to shepherd His sheep. In Jesus' eyes, "Man" is most precious. Today which people has Jesus entrusted us to shepherd, care and pray for?

Prayer: Examine my attitude and motive in serving God – do I rely on myself and feel discouraged? May the Lord help me to trust Him and rely on Him!

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**Friday, March 30, 2018**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

The Great Commission of Jesus

Time: Within 40 days post-resurrection

It is a familiar passage for all of us. Let us recapture some important points of the Great Commission:

- Some still doubted.
  - “Making disciples” should be the main message of the Great Commission and it includes baptizing them and teaching them to observe all Jesus has commanded of us.
  - Rely on the authority of Jesus; Jesus also promised to be with us always.
1. Do I live out the Great Commission? Any parts I have done? Any parts I have not done? Why?
  2. Does NYCBC live out the Great Commission? Any parts the church has done? Any parts the church has not done? Why?
  3. Do I care for the overseas ministry of missionaries? Can I pay attention to the news of some missionary and pray for them on a regular basis?

Prayer: May the Heavenly Father send me to live out the Great Commission!

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**Saturday, March 31, 2018**

**Acts 1:1-11**

The ascension of Jesus

Time: Within 40 days post-resurrection

In the forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to different people on many occasions. He explained the Gospel in which the Son of God died for people’s sin, was crucified on the cross, buried, and resurrected after three days. Now it comes the ascension of Jesus, yet it was a new beginning of Jesus’ mission: the Holy Spirit will guide the church to testify of Jesus until the end of the earth, while disciples wait for the second coming of Jesus.

1. Do I truly believe the Gospel of Jesus? How does the Gospel of Jesus transform my life?
2. Only the Holy Spirit guided church can fulfill the Great Commission. How do I participate in building the local church?
3. How does the local church today follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Does NYCBC make it?

Prayer: Pray for myself and the church to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. On Easter Day, may the Lord help me to examine my dedication to Jesus!