



What Do We Learn from the Close Encounters the Risen Christ? A Close Encounter with Living Obedience

Lesson 10

Seven Lessons Learned from the Close Encounters with the Living Lord

Matthew 28:18-20

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE REAL KIND WITH THE RISEN LORD <i>Jesus Meets Us Where We Are but Never Leaves Us Where He Finds Us!</i>				
Who	Where	How	Close Encounter	Living Proof
Mary Magdalene	Garden Tomb	Gardener	Of the COMPASSIONATE Kind <i>Sanguine Appeal</i>	A Living HOPE that <i>Embraces the Risen Lord</i>
Cleopas	Emmaus Road	Traveler	Of the UNDERSTANDING Kind <i>Melancholy Appeal</i>	A Living TRUTH that <i>Understands the Risen Lord</i>
Thomas	Locked Room (2x)	Master	Of the MOTIVATING Kind <i>Phlegmatic Appeal</i>	A Living FAITH that Is <i>Motivated by the Risen Lord</i>
Peter	On the Sea From the Shore Around the Fire Along the Shore	Bystander	Of the RESTORING Kind <i>Choleric Appeal</i>	A Living LOVE that Is <i>Following the Risen Lord</i>

Seven Practical Insights from Close Encounters with the Living Lord:

1. Christ Is Always Closer than We FEEL...or THINK...or BELIEVE...or KNOW!

2. Christ Will Always MEET Us Where We Are! *Psalms 139:1-8, 23-24*

- Jesus met Mary **AT THE TOMB**, even though He was risen from the dead and she was worried over a missing body!
- Jesus met Cleopas **ON THE ROAD**, even though His plan would unfold back in Jerusalem and they were headed in the wrong direction!
- Jesus met Thomas **BEHIND LOCKED DOORS** and according to his stubborn demands, even though he is God and Lord and Thomas had settled into a stubborn skepticism!
- Jesus met Peter **ON THE SHORE**—while he was fishing and fed him on the shore (*Surf & Turf!*), even though His call was for Peter to be a fisher of men and to feed his sheep and Peter had settled for what was comfortable and perhaps even carnal!

3. Christ Will Never LEAVE Us Where He Found Us!

Have You Had a CLOSE ENCOUNTER of the REAL KIND with the RISEN LORD?

- Are you established in a **Growing Relationship** with Christ?
- Are you established in **Real Fellowship** with other believers?
- Are you established in **Outstanding Membership** in our church?
- Are you established in **Whole-hearted Partnership** in the ministry?

4. Christ ACCEPTS Us the Way We Are but Loves Us Too Much to Leave Us that Way! 1 Thessalonians 5:23

- Mary's *feelings* (emotions) were *more STABLE!* Christ led her to submit *her feelings* to *His facts!*
- Cleopas' *thoughts* (analysis) were *more BALANCED!* Christ led him to submit *his reasoning* to *His revelation!*
- Thomas' *attitude* was *more FLEXIBLE!* Christ led him to submit *his demands* to *His deity!*
- Peter's *will* was *more HUMBLE!* Christ led him to submit *his will* to *His ways!*

5. Close Encounters Happen BEFORE We Even Know It! Hebrews 13:5; James 4:8

6. Close Encounters Are Always Personal but Never Meant to Be Kept PRIVATE! Acts 1:8

7. Close Encounters Are for His Glory, for Our Good, and for Going to Others with the GOOD NEWS! Matthew 28:18-20

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him and share our joy with all peoples!

Close encounters always end in being sent on His mission to make disciples of all people groups!

Close encounters are not revealed, so we can repeat them, but so we can respond to them!

What Is the Living Proof We Are Really Obeying the Risen Lord?

We will make a great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission to be a great church that glorifies our great Christ.

Close Encounters of the Real Kind Result in a Great Commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment!

- What aspect of your God-given personality is hindering you from seeing Christ at work in your life?
- What aspect of your God-given personality is hindering you from being what Christ wants you to be and doing what Christ wants you to do—will stop hiding behind the excuse of “that’s just me” and instead ask Christ to conform your personality to be more like Him!
- How have you allowed your God-given personality become an excuse for not sharing what Christ has done and is doing in your life? Do you really think that God would give us all the power to be His witnesses, but then give us a personality that prevents that from happening?!