

Study #52
THE RESURRECTION
John 20:1-18

John's Purpose Statement:

John 20:30-31—³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

→ REVIEW

John 2:18-22—¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for [cleansing the temple]?”
¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

1. What was Jesus talking about when He said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up”?
2. Even though Jesus told them He would be raised, are the disciples expecting His resurrection?

John 10:17-18—¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

1. What do these verses tell us about the death and resurrection of Jesus?

John 16:16, 20-22—¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me... ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

1. Jesus said these words on Thursday night, just hours before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion. What did Jesus promise the disciples in these verses?
2. What emotional state described in these verses can we assume the disciples are in at the start of today's passage, John 20:1-18?

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS**→ Read John 20:1-10**

20 ¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

1. What day of the week is it? What time of day is it?
2. Who does John record went to the tomb?
3. Read the passages below to learn more about Mary Magdalene. How was she involved in Jesus' ministry? What did she personally witness?

Luke 8:1-3—"Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out."

John 19:25—"25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene."

Matthew 27:59-61—"59 And Joseph took Jesus' body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb."

4. When Mary Magdalene got to the tomb, what did she find? Did she look inside the tomb? Instead, what did she do? Why?
5. Which two disciples did Mary go get to investigate? What were they thinking?
6. What was unusual about the linens? Why do you think these details were included?
7. Look back at what Mary said in v. 2. Now look at vs. 8-9, what did John "believe"? Why?
8. What did Peter and John do after they investigated?

→ Read John 20:11-18

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

1. What is Mary's emotional state?
2. What did she finally do? What did she see that was different from what Peter & John saw?
3. What continues to be Mary's understanding of what happened? (v. 13, 15)
4. What question did both the angels and Jesus ask Mary?
5. What caused Mary to recognize Jesus? How did she reply?
6. What task did Jesus give Mary? How did He refer to the disciples?
7. How is what Mary said in v. 18 different than what she reported in v. 2?
8. Looking back at the passage as a whole, who was the "main character"? Why do you think John chose to write the about the resurrection from her perspective?

→ Read the parallel passages of the Resurrection found in Matthew, Mark, & Luke. Note the additional details given in each account.

Matthew 27:52—28:15—⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard... **2** “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

1. What additional details does Matthew give?

Mark 16:1-8—“When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

1. What additional details does Mark give?

Luke 24:1-12—“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.”

1. What additional details does Luke give?

TEACHING NOTES**1. The Substantial Evidence**

- a. Empty tomb
- b. Angelic testimony
- c. Eye witnesses

2. The Sequence of Events

- a. **Saturday Night** (Matthew 27:52-66)
- b. **Resurrection Day:** _____ (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-2, Luke 24:1, John 20:1)
- c. **The events before sunrise** (Matthew 28:2-4)
 - i. Localized Earthquake
 - ii. Angels appear
 - iii. Stone is rolled away
 - iv. Soldiers flee
 - v. Conspiracy is started (Matthew 28:11-15)
- d. **The women go to the tomb** (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:1, John 20:1)
 - i. Who?
 - ii. When?
 - iii. Where?
 - iv. Why?
- e. **Mary arrives first, but leaves quickly** (John 20:1-2)
- f. **Women arrive at the tomb** (Matthew 28:5-7, Mark 16:3-7, Luke 24:2-7)
 - i. Witness the empty tomb
 - ii. Witness the angelic testimony
- g. **Women leave the tomb** (Matthew 28:7, Mark 16:8)
- h. **Peter & John investigate, then return home** (Luke 24:12, John 20:3-10)
- i. **Jesus appears to Mary** (John 20:11-17)
- j. **Jesus appears to the other women** (Matthew 28:9-10)
- k. **Women report to the disciples** (Luke 24:10-11, John 20:18)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Read the following passages, then answer the questions.

John 11:25-26a—²⁵ *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."*

Romans 10:9—⁹ *"... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Romans 6:9-10—⁹ *We know that Christ, *being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.* ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."*

1 Corinthians 15:3-7—³ *For I delivered to you as of *first importance* what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..."*

1 Peter 1:3-5—³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

Why is the resurrection of Jesus not just a *feature* of Christianity, but the *main event*? Why is it important to your life personally?

2. How does Mary Magdalene's testimony fit in with John's purpose of writing His gospel? (see his purpose statement on top of page 1)
3. How would you answer someone who says that the accounts of the resurrection in Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John don't match up?

NEXT WEEK: John 20:19-31

The Events on Resurrection Day

