

“The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ”

John 20:1-18

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Teaching Aim: To explore the events surrounding the resurrection of Jesus Christ through the writings of the Apostle John. To investigate Mary Magdalene’s encounter with the two angels in the tomb and to capture the emotion of the moment as Mary realized that Jesus had risen from the dead and was with her in the garden. To recognize the immediate change in status that took place after the resurrection, the followers of Jesus were now more than just “friend,”; they were “*adopted brothers and sisters in Christ,*” true members of the family of God!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: A visit to the tomb early Sunday morning (John 20:1-10)

1. According to **verse 1**, who approached the tomb early Sunday morning? How early was it? Why did she go to the tomb so early in the morning? (See **Mark 16:1**) According to the four gospel accounts, how many women went to the tomb on the morning of the resurrection? (See **Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 23:55-24:1; John 20:1**) Is it possible multiple trips were made to the empty tomb that morning?

2. What can we learn about Mary Magdalene from **Luke 8:1-2**? Some people also believe Mary was the woman spoken of in **Luke 7:36-39**; is there any way to prove this for sure? (See Commentaries) Why do you think Mary loved Jesus so much? Do you find the more someone has fallen, the more they tend to appreciate what Jesus has done for them?

3. What did Mary Magdalene discover when she arrived at the tomb (**vs. 1b**)? What did she do (**vs. 2**)? Why do you think Mary looked specifically for Simon Peter and the other disciple? Who do most scholars believe “*the other disciple*” was? (See Commentaries) What message did Mary bring to the disciples?

4. How did Peter react to the unexpected news (**vs. 3**)? What can we learn about their run to the tomb from **verse 4**? Many people believe Peter was a big, strong, and impulsive fisherman. Does the description in **verse 4** line up with that theory?

5. How did the Apostle John react when he arrived first at the tomb (**vs. 5**)? What did he see when he looked inside? Why do you think John hesitated and did not go in until Simon Peter arrived? (See **Deut. 19:15**)
6. What did Simon Peter do at the tomb that the Apostle John did not (**vs. 6**)? What did Peter find when he entered? Why was this unusual? What, if any, significance was there in the handkerchief that had covered the head of Jesus being separated, folded neatly, and placed by itself away from the rest of the graveclothes (**vs. 7**)? Would grave robbers have done this?
7. Many people today believe "*the Shroud of Turin*" was the actual cloth that Jesus was buried with. What do we find imprinted upon this famous cloth? How do many people attempt to explain this? (Hint: Search Online) Is there any proof that this is in fact Jesus? Note: Most scholars believe that this is not the burial cloth of Jesus.
8. In **verse 8** we find John finally entering the tomb. What conclusion did the Apostle John come to after he entered and examined the evidence? Who was the first disciple to realize that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead?
9. On multiple occasions Jesus had forewarned His disciples that He would be killed, buried and would rise again on the third day. (See **Matt. 16:21; Mark 8:31; 9:31; Luke 9:22**) Did His disciples believe Him or did it go right over their heads? According to John, did they understand the Old Testament prophecies relating to Jesus at that time (**vs. 9**)? (See **Psa. 16:10-11; 110:1, 4; Luke 24:25-27, 32, 44-47**)
10. Out of all of the disciples, only Judas was from Judah; the other eleven disciples were from Galilee. What did John mean in **verse 10** when he said, "*The disciples went away to their own homes*?" Did they go home to Galilee, or did they remain in Jerusalem a little longer? Do you ever stay with friends when you are travelling? Why is this the likely scenario here? (See **Matt. 26:17-19; Mark 14:1-2**)

Part II: Mary encounters two angels inside the tomb (John 20:11-13)

1. What did Mary do as the others left and returned to Jerusalem (**vs. 11**)? Why? What did Mary see as she stooped down and looked into the tomb that she thought was empty (**vs. 12**)? What significance, if any, is there to the angels being dressed in white? Is there any significance to the way the angels were sitting in the tomb? (See Commentaries)

2. What question did the angels ask Mary (**vs. 13**)? How did Mary respond? At this point, did Mary believe that Jesus had risen from the dead or that His body had been stolen? Do you ever find yourself struggling with the Bible at times? Have you ever wondered if Jesus really did rise from the dead and what death would be like if He didn't?

Part III: The mysterious gardener who spoke to Mary (John 20:14-18)

1. What caught Mary's eye as she was speaking to the angels (**vs. 14**)? Who did Mary assume the individual was? What are some possible explanations for Mary not recognizing Jesus?

2. What did Jesus ask Mary (**vs. 15**)? Was Jesus being rude to Mary Magdalene when He called her, "*Woman*"? (See **John 19:25-27**) Did Jesus already know the answer to His question? Why do you think Jesus asked Mary this question? (NOTE: The Greek word for "*weeping*" means "*wailing loudly*," much like we see at Jewish funerals today.) What can we learn about Mary's state of mind from this description?

3. What question did Mary ask the man whom she assumed was the gardener (**vs. 15**)? What was Mary implying? Have you ever heard people say foolish things when they are grieving? Why do they do this? Could Mary really have carried the body of Jesus back all by herself if it had been taken it elsewhere? Note: All Mary wanted was to be with Jesus, and that is what she was about to get.

4. How did Jesus respond to the excessive wailing and emotional talk from Mary (**vs. 16**)? Notice: Mary did not recognize Jesus visibly, but did she recognize His voice when He spoke to her. How does **verse 16** relate to **John 10:3-4, 27-28** and what can we learn about Mary Magdalene from these verses? What special title did Mary use for Jesus in **verse 16**? What is the meaning of this title?

5. According to **verse 17**, what did Mary do once she recognized that she was talking to Jesus? Why? How has the King James Version's translation of **verse 17** led to some confusion? Was Jesus stating that no one was to touch Him? (See **Matt. 28:9; John 20:26-27**) What did Jesus mean when He told Mary, "*Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father?*"

6. Up until this time, Jesus had called His followers "*friends.*" (See **John 15:15-17**) What special title did Jesus give to His disciples after His resurrection (**vs. 17b**)? What had changed? What makes this title extra special considering the disciples deserting Jesus at the cross? What are some ways that Christ has forgiven you? What does it mean for us to be "*adopted*" brothers and sisters of Christ? How does this change our personal standing before God?

7. What did Jesus mean in **verse 17b** when He said He was ascending to, "*My Father and your Father, to My God and your God?*" Was Jesus in any way implying (as some claim) that He was a created being like we are? What truth was Jesus teaching to both His disciples and to us today? Note: It is important to remember that Jesus made this statement in His glorified human nature. One day we will have a glorified body like the resurrected body of Jesus Christ.

8. What did Mary do when Jesus told her to go and inform His disciples of the resurrection (**vv. 17 & 18**)? Would a woman be expected to be the first witness of the resurrection? Why or why not? How did the Jewish men, particularly rabbis, treat women in biblical days? Why is it significant that Jesus had a woman be the first Christian missionary after the resurrection? How has Jesus elevated the role of women in the Christian world?

9. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent of your sin and do so right now in prayer?

MINER'S CORNER ~ Manna to live by!

- One of the best times to meet Jesus is early in the morning.
- There are no female angels in the Bible, every angel we see comes as a man.
- Angels do not have haloes and only certain kinds of angels have wings.
- Only Cherubim, Seraphim, and the Four Living Creatures are described as having wings.
- The graveclothes left at the tomb in the shape of a cocoon spoke volumes about the resurrection of Christ and nature of His resurrected body.
- The folded napkin demonstrated the methodical and peaceful way in which *“the Prince of Peace”* left the tomb.
- Jesus is with us when we are hurting, even when we don't realize it.
- Jesus came to Mary in her greatest need, He is here for us in our time of need as well.
- Following the resurrection, Christ-followers were no longer considered to be just friends, we are now *“adopted brothers and sisters,”* fully accepted as part of the family of God!