

John 20 The Empty Tomb

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him." 3 So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb.

4 The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; 5 and he stooped to look in, and saw the linen wrappings lying there; however he did not go in. 6 So Simon Peter also came, following him, and he entered the tomb; and he looked at the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings but folded up in a place by itself. 8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb also entered then, and he saw and believed.

9 For they did not yet understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. 10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes. 11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13 And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him."

14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging 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, and My God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

Jesus among His Disciples

19 Now when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were together due to fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be to you." 20 And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you; just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." 26 Eight days later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be to you."

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side; and do not continue in disbelief, but be a believer." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you now believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Why This Gospel Was Written

30 So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been 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.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. Why did Mary come to the tomb while it was still dark?
2. Who moved the stone from the tomb?
3. Why did Mary run to Peter and John?
4. Mary confesses Jesus body had been moved from the tomb.
5. Who do you think might have taken Jesus body and why?
6. Why did Peter and John run to the tomb?
7. Who was the fastest runner?
8. Why did John not go inside the tomb even though he arrived there first?

9. What would a detective investigating, made of the rolled up linen wrapping.
10. Peter, having arrived, goes straight into the tomb. Why?
11. What was it that was inside the tomb that made John say he believed?
12. How are the rest of the disciples feeling at this point, having seen Jesus crucified?
13. Mary is weeping but she looks inside the tomb.
14. What does she mean when she says, 'the Lord has been taken away'?
15. How come the disciples did not understand that Jesus needed to rise from the dead?
16. How could the disciples, having experienced these encounters, then just go home?
17. What was Mary crying about?
18. Were there actually two angels in the tomb or were they men?
19. Was Jesus always standing in the tomb or did He appear?
20. Everyone who engages with Mary, wants to know what she is crying about.
21. What gave Mary the impression Jesus was the gardener?
22. At the sound of Jesus' voice, Mary recognised who He was.
23. Why did Jesus need to go the Father before the ascension, before Mary was able to touch Him?
24. Did the disciples believe Mary's testimony?
25. How did Jesus get into a locked room?
26. Why were His first words, 'peace be with you'?
27. It was the words of Jesus that authenticated Him to be the Christ!
28. Jesus having been sent by the Father, why did He say to the disciples, 'I send you'?
29. What was in the breath of Jesus that made the disciples receive the Holy Spirit when He breathed on them?
30. The disciples of Jesus were given the ministry of forgiveness.
31. What would make disciples retain someone's sin?
32. Why would Thomas not accept the testimony of the disciples?
33. Do you think that Thomas overdid the evidence request, in order to have his mind changed?
34. Why did Jesus confront Thomas's unbelief?
35. It is only when you know Jesus that you can truly say, 'My Lord and My God'.
36. What did Jesus mean when He said, 'true, blessed faith is for those who believe but have not seen'?
37. What do you think might be the other signs that John makes reference to, that were not recorded?
38. To be a Christian, God requires us to believe that Jesus is the Christ, that He is the Son of God, only then can we know life in His name.