

152. Jesus Rose Alive Again (John 20:1-31)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your wonderful work to save us. Thank You for Your word that teaches us about You. Help us hold strongly to the good news of salvation and never doubt. We pray in Your name, Amen.

John 20:1-2. Early in the morning on Sunday, while still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw the stone was moved from the entrance. She ran to Peter and the disciple Jesus loved (John). Mary said, “They took the Lord out of the tomb!” We don’t know where they put Jesus’ body!”

- Early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus’ tomb. What did she expect to see? What did she see?
- Mary ran back and told Peter and John, “They took the Lord!” Who is “they?” Who were the disciples all afraid of?

John 20:3-9. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John ran faster and arrived first. He looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there. But John didn’t enter. Peter arrived second, and he entered the tomb. Peter saw the linen cloth and the burial cloth for Jesus’ head. The cloth for Jesus’ head was folded, separate from the linen. Then John entered the tomb. He saw and believed. Both disciples still didn’t understand that the Bible said Jesus must rise alive from the dead.

- What did Peter and John see inside the tomb? If someone stole Jesus’ body, what would the tomb and cloths look like?
- Did Peter or John really understand what happened to Jesus?

John 20:10-13. Peter and John went back home. But Mary stayed near the tomb and cried. While she cried, she looked inside the tomb and saw two angels in white. They sat where Jesus’ body was, one near the head and one near the feet. The angels asked, “Woman, why are you crying?” She said, “They took away my Lord, and I don’t know where they put Him.”

- Some people today talk about angels, like seeing angels is the best inspiring thing you can see. Mary saw two angels. Did that help her at all? Why not?

John 20:14-18. Mary turned and saw Jesus, but she didn't recognize Him. Jesus asked, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Mary thought Jesus was the gardener. She said, "Sir, if you took Jesus' body, please tell me where He is. I will get Him." Jesus said, "Mary." Mary looked at Jesus and said in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" That means, "Teacher!" Jesus said, "Don't hold on to Me. I haven't yet gone back to the Father. Go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am going back to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene told the disciples, "I saw the Lord!" She told them what Jesus told her.

- Why did Jesus tell Mary not to hold on to Him? (hint – was Jesus going to physically stay there forever?)
- Jesus gave Mary a message for the disciples. Jesus said He is going back to "My Father and your Father, to My God and your God." Notice how Jesus said that. What does that mean about our relationship with Jesus?

John 20:19-23. That Sunday evening, the disciples were together inside. The doors were locked because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came and stood with them. He said, "Peace with you!" Then Jesus showed the disciples His hands and side. The disciples saw the Lord and rejoiced. Again Jesus said, "Peace with you! The Father sent Me, now I am sending you the same." Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive someone's sins, those sins are forgiven. If you don't forgive someone's sins, those sins are not forgiven."

- Why were the disciples inside with the doors locked? Did that keep Jesus out?
- Jesus said He was sending the disciples. To do what? What is some of the main work pastors do today?

John 20:24-29. Thomas (also named “Twin”) was one of the 12 disciples. When Jesus came, Thomas wasn’t there. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Lord!” Thomas said, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and touch there, and unless my hand touches His side, I will not believe.” A week later, the disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. The doors were locked. Didn’t matter, Jesus came and stood with them. Jesus said, “Peace with you!” Jesus told Thomas, “Touch My hands. Look at My hands. Touch My side. Stop doubting! Believe!” Thomas said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus told Thomas, “You believe because you see Me. Blessed are those people who haven’t seen but still believe.”

- When did Thomas say he will believe Jesus is alive? Did he believe when he saw Jesus?
- What did Jesus say about people who believe even though they haven’t seen Him?

John 20:30-31. The disciples saw Jesus do many other miracles. Those miracles are not written in this book. But these things are written so you can believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then believing in Him, you can have life in His name.

- We can’t see Jesus now. But we can believe in Him. How can we “see” and believe?