
John 20:1-23

(Basic Bible in English)

Jesus has been arrested and He's been tried, He's been crucified, and now chapter 20 deals with His resurrection. There is no greater event in history. If Christ hadn't resurrected, man would be the most pitied of all species.

1 ¶ The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. There have been so many misunderstandings about this Mary. She's the one who had demons cast out of her. Her name could be Mary of Magdala, which there was a city named Magdala, but we do know that she's the one who loved Jesus so much she didn't run off during the crucifixion like the rest of His disciples did. She stayed through the whole awful horrible event. A sepulcher was a cave where they stored dead bodies, and they rolled a big stone over the doorway and let the body dry out and decay for a year, then they put the bones in a box and deliver it to the family. Mary saw the stone had been removed and she was worried.

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. Mary is sure somebody has stolen Jesus' body so she went and told Simon Peter.

3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. John got to the tomb first because he was about 18 years old, younger than Peter, but Peter was the elder and John waited on Peter to enter first out of respect. Peter was a bit of a troublemaker, but Jesus used those qualities. God doesn't take our characteristics away from us when we become His children; He just redirects them for His glory.

5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. They wrapped Jesus up in 75 english pounds of Myrrh and Alos, two herbs to keep smell away from the decaying process. They looked in the tomb and saw the linen clothes either as an empty casing or as collapsed, just laying there. The appearance of these linen clothes was something unique and different. Most linen clothes have disappeared over the years, but they have found a few with the linen clothes still in them.

6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, This was Peter's impetuous nature being used for good.

7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. The napkin from Jesus' head was folded neatly and set aside. Everything was very nice, neat and orderly.

8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. They didn't fully understand what was happening because they didn't have all of God's word yet.


10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. They didn't know what else to do.

11 ¶ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, This weeping means a very loud, heavy grieving.

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Notice that here's Mary crying uncontrollably, looks into the tomb, and isn't even troubled or startled by seeing two angels standing there. She's just focused on one thing: where is Jesus' body?

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. We don't know why she doesn't recognize Jesus.



15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Even after talking to Him, she still doesn't recognize Jesus. She just wants the body.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. This word Rabboni in the Greek and Hebrew is unique. There are three levels of authority: first is Rab. Rab is short for Rabbi, meaning Master. The next level, Rabbi, means My Master. The last level Rabboni, means My Master and My Lord.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. Jesus tells her not to hold on to Him because He hasn't ascended to His Father. He's telling her their relationship has changed. She can't be holding on to Him. Jesus sends her to go tell the disciples that He's going back to our God the Father.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. Can you imagine the doubts and disbelief these men experienced.

19 ¶ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. The disciples' doors were shut and locked tight out of fear of the Jews, and Jesus just appeared through the locked door. No barrier can block Him. Notice Jesus is startling them.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Jesus showed the scars from the crucifixion. The only thing made in heaven are the scars Christ bears.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. Jesus says to them again: Peace be unto you. He says over and over, I'm here to show you the Father. Now you go show your brethren the Father and the Son.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit: We're getting into some very controversial scripture right here. Jesus says He's giving them the Holy Spirit right here, right now. Even though the Holy Spirit comes at Pentacost, at this moment He gives it to them too.

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. This verse has the Catholic church believing that their bishops and such have the authority to forgive sins. But that meaning is taken out of context. You have to take the other scriptures that relate to the forgiveness of sins and put it all together. No human being can forgive sins. Only the blood of Christ can forgive sins. We can tell people how to get their sins forgiven through Christ, but we can't forgive them ourselves.