

“Gospel of John – Resurrection and Reunion”

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May 12th, 2024

Scripture

John 20:1-29

“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 taken away from the tomb. So, she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” So, Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so, Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So, the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So, the disciples went away again to their own homes.”

“But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 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. 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 have laid Him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 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.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.”

“So, when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So, Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. “If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.” But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.”

“After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving but

believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Last Week

We looked at the crucifixion and the care of Jesus's body for His burial

...how Jesus suffered for our sake and in our place

...how His sacrifice fulfilled great amounts of prophecy from the Old Testament

...how David received a picture of the cross even though he had no idea of what the Romans would do

This Week

We look at the Resurrection event

Why the resurrection event means so much to us

We look at Jesus's reunion with His disciples

We discuss what Jesus said in the Resurrection

The first 10 verses:

The Resurrection Scene

John 20:1-10

"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 taken away from the tomb. **So, she ran and came to Simon Peter** and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." So, Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so, Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the facecloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So, the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and **he saw and believed**. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So, the disciples went away again to their own homes."

We discussed the Resurrection a few weeks ago at Easter

He IS Risen!

We understand the events -> Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early

Why did she do that?

She had a deep love for the Lord -> He exorcised demons out of her -> **Luke 8:2**

She was at the cross with Jesus's mother and John's mother, Salome

Mary Magdalene runs to get Peter and John to let them know

John gets there first, then Peter -> they go in and see that Jesus is not there

They “saw and believed”, even though they didn’t understand the Scripture about the Resurrection

Why is the Resurrection so important to belief in Jesus? -> We’ll come back to that later...

The disciples leave, presuming that something miraculous has happened?

Perhaps, Jesus told them He would rise again:

Mark 9:31-32

“For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, **“The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.”** But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.”

Even though Peter and John leave to go home

Mary Magdalene stays:

Jesus Shows Up to Mary

John 20:11-18

“But **Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping**; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 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. 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 have laid Him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 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.” **Jesus said to her, “Mary!”** She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, **‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’**” Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.”

Mary was weeping

She didn’t understand the Lord’s resurrection either

John records that two angels appeared to Mary asking her why she was weeping

Luke records the same event (Luke 24:4) -> Matthew and Mark only record the 1 angel who was speaking

She is crying because she thinks that someone has stolen Jesus’s body

John records the angel conversation to give proof that His body was not stolen

Jesus then shows up to Mary, even though she does not recognize Him

Jesus had the ability to disguise Himself from recognition -> The same in **Luke 24** on the road to Emmaus

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” -> Jesus then allows her to know that it is Him by shouting her name

John 14:21

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and **I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”**

Jesus promises to disclose Himself to those that love Him

He reveals Himself to Mary

Mary obviously rushes in for an embrace -> it is the Lord that she loves deeply

“go to My brethren and say to them, **'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'**”

Jesus tells Mary to go tell the disciples the news of His resurrection -> she is the first eyewitness of His rising

Mary goes to the disciples and does exactly what Jesus told her to do

“**My Father and your Father**” -> Jesus tells the disciples that they are now brothers!

“**My God and your God**” -> Jesus tells the disciples that they have a similar relationship to Father!

I'm not sure we truly understand this -> We have a relationship with God, the Father -> **Sons of the King!**

Jesus then reunites with and reveals Himself to the disciples:

Reunion with His Chosen

John 20:19-25

“So, when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, **for fear of the Jews**, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “**Peace be with you.**” And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. **The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.** So, Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; **as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.**” “If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.” But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.”

It is evening on Resurrection Sunday -> the first day of the week

The disciples are locked in -> “when the doors were shut where the disciples were, **for fear of the Jews**”

Jesus appears and says, “**Peace be with you.**”

Jesus shows the disciples His hands and side -> there are now many eyewitnesses of the Resurrection

“**The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord**” -> **HE IS RISEN** -> it should continue to bring us JOY!

“as the Father has sent Me, I also send you” -> Jesus repeats what He said in the prayer to the Father

John 17:18

“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

“**Receive the Holy Spirit.**” -> Jesus pledges to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples

The Holy Spirit does not actually come to them until Pentecost

We see this in **Acts 2**:

Acts 2:1-4

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And **there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves**, and they rested on each one of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

This was 40 days after the Resurrection, by the way -> celebrating the Day of Pentecost

The Spirit brought the disciples the ability to speak in tongues

Why?

Because Jesus was going to send them into the world as missionaries

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” -> they will need the ability to communicate with all ethnicities

Then Jesus says:

“If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”

Wait a second -> did the disciples have the power to forgive sins?

Do YOU have the power to forgive sins against God?

No, only God can forgive sins like that

What does this passage mean, then?

As we go out in ministry to others, we have the ability to describe the forgiveness of sins

We can discern whether someone is serious about repentance and forgiveness or not

Only God truly knows someone’s heart, however

“**We have seen the Lord!**” -> But Thomas was not there when Jesus showed up...

“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”

Thomas must have been from Missouri, the “Show Me” State

He needed to be shown, personally, before he would believe

Eight days later, he had his chance:

John 20:26-29

“After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and **do not be unbelieving but believing.**” Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? **Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**”

Some people will take a long time to believe in Jesus

Their journey might not be an easy one -> it might be too hard to believe

Perhaps your journey to Jesus was this way?

Jesus shows up specifically for Thomas

“He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and **do not be unbelieving but believing.**”

Jesus holds out His hands for Thomas to see and touch

Jesus meets Thomas at his need for proof

“**do not be unbelieving but believing.**” -> this is a command – “Believe, Thomas”

Thomas feels the wounds for himself and says, "My Lord and my God!"

Belief comes to Thomas, the third eyewitness of the Resurrection

He announces that Jesus is the Son of God -> the confession of belief resulting in Salvation

Romans 10:9-10

“**If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and **with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.****”

Two confessions of belief:

- 1) Jesus as Lord
- 2) God raised Him from the dead

Not Jesus as Savior -> Jesus as Lord

Now Thomas believes, but what about us in modern times

Do we have physical proof of the Resurrection that we can touch?

Not at all, although some search for pieces of Jesus’s clothing -> shroud of Turin, for example

“Because you have seen Me, have you believed? **Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**”

Jesus tells Thomas that people will be blessed when they believe without having physical evidence

That can only happen with the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives

Otherwise, we would be racked with FUD -> Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt

Where are you with Jesus? Are you sure that He lives today?

Maybe it is time for your confession of Jesus as Lord of your life!

Prayer

Benediction