**He Is Risen**

**Introduction:**

Jesus’ body had been taken down off the cross by Joseph of Arimathea. He and Nicodemus wrapped the body in costly linen cloth while placing myrrh and aloes in the cloth. A rock was rolled in front of the opening to the tomb and a Roman guard sealed it and was left to make sure disciples made no attempt to steal the Lord’s body.

**Text:** John 20:1-18

**Body:**

1. **Exegesis of Text** (All four gospel accounts combined)

**Verse 1** John 20:1 “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.” NKJV Mary Magdalene along with several other women including Mary, the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, left for the tomb before daybreak and arrived after the sun had risen on Sunday, the first day of the week. They were coming to anoint Jesus’ body with spices and ointments. Mary Magdalene apparently ran ahead of the others and discovered that the rock had been rolled away from the door to the tomb. A great earthquake had occurred and an angel from heaven had moved the stone. Roman guards were terrified. She does not enter the tomb now but ran back to inform Peter and John of what she had seen. The other women, upon arriving, enter the tomb and discover Jesus’ body is nowhere to be found. Two angels appear to them. Read Luke 24:4-8. “And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!’ Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words.” NKJV

**Verses 2-4** John 20:2-4 “Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other apostle, 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.’ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.” NKJV Mary Magdalene reported to Peter and John about the missing body. They are amazed! Both men ran to the tomb. John arrived first.

**Verses 5-7** John20:5-7 “And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.” NKJVJohn looked in the tomb and saw Jesus’ burial cloths but did not go in. Peter arrived and entered to see linen cloths lying where they had been carefully removed and the face cloth neatly folded in a separate place. This is evidence that robbers had not been there; instead it showed a neat, orderly appearance. Jesus’ body had not been stolen nor had friends removed it. There was only one other conclusion.

**Verses 8-9** John 20:8-9 “Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.” NKJVJohn entered the tomb and saw the evidence and believed. Probably he did not fully understand the implication of the resurrection. The fact of resurrection was clearly prophesied in the Old Testament and Jesus often referred to it. There was no reason why they shouldn’t have known and understood. It shows how hard it is to uproot long-held beliefs.

**Verse 10** John 20:10 “Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.” NKJV Peter and John returned home. John was surely eager to inform Mary, the mother of Jesus, of all that had happened.

**Verses 11-12** John 20:11-12 “But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.” NKJVWhen Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb, Peter and John had already left for home. She did not yet know that Jesus had been resurrected. Weeping, she stooped down [entrance to the tomb is low] and looked inside. She saw two angels dressed in white. One was at the head and the other at the feet of where the body had lain. Angels placed like the man-made ones on the mercy seat of the temple. There were real ones who guarded this new mercy seat!

**Verse 13** John 20:13 “Then 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.’ NKJV She answered their question by stating that someone had taken her Lord’s body to some unknown location. She too had not understood Jesus’ own teaching about His resurrection.

**Verse 14-15** John 20:14-15 “Now 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?’ She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, ‘Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’” NKJV She in some way sensed the presence of another person but did not know it was Jesus. Since they were in the garden and it was early morning, she thought He was the gardener. She asked Him to lead her to the body so she could take it away probably to a safer place.

**Verse 16** John 20:16 “Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him, ‘Rabboni!’ (Which is to say, Teacher).” NKJV Jesus simply said her name but that was enough. That brought instant recognition. She responded, “Rabboni.” [My Great Teacher]

**Verse 17** John 20:17 “Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father’; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ” NKJV It appeared that she went forward to touch Him. He told her not to cling to Him now. [He had been in the Hadean realm, the part called Paradise, but had not yet ascended to His Father in heaven.] Rather she needed to go and tell the disciples that He would soon go to His Father. This was a source of great joy to them.

**Verse 18** John 20:18 “Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.” NKJV She immediately went and informed the apostles of what had happened. Mark records that they did not at first believe. [It does not include Peter and John.]

Now Read Matthew 28:9-10. “And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’ so they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.’” NKJV The other women, after visiting the empty tomb, seeing the angel and being told to tell the disciples that Jesus had arisen, met Jesus on the way back. He had already appeared to Mary Magdalene. They worship Him. He tells them to tell the apostles to meet Him in Galilee. They carry out instructions – tell them “He is risen!”

1. **What the Resurrection Means to Me** (Acts 2:24) “whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.” NKJV
2. It assures me that He is the Son of God. (Romans 1:4) “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” NKJV
3. It provides the basis for my hope. (I Peter 1:3-4) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to be inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,” NKJV
4. It made possible eternal life. (John 14:19b) “Because I live, you will live also.” This life is possible because Jesus was resurrected, never to die again.
5. It causes me to live a transformed life. (II Corinthians 5:14-15) “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” NKJV
6. It proves all of us will be resurrected. (I Corinthians 15:22-23) “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.” NKJV

Will you not place your faith in the Risen Savior, repent of your past life, confess His Name, and be buried with Him in baptism in order to be raised a new person? Bobby Stafford March 25, 2018