

DAWN OF A NEW DAY Sunday School- April 8, 2012

Unifying Topic: THE LIVING WORD

Lesson Text

I. Mary's Concern (John 20:1-2)

II. The Disciples Believe (John 20:3-10)

III. Jesus' Appearance (John 20:19-20)

The Main Thought: 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. (John 20:20, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People have always wondered about what happened to our human spirit after our physical death. Is there a life after death? Jesus' followers were confused when His body was missing, but when the resurrect Jesus appeared to them, they rejoiced.

Lesson Aim: To show that even though Jesus died on the cross, He was raised from the dead three days later, just as He foretold.

Life aim: To remind the students that we have the ability to live in the power of Christ's resurrection every day.

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- 20:1 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.
- 20:2 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.
- 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.
- 20:4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.
- 20:5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.
- 20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,
- 20:7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.
- 20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.
- 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.
- 20:10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

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- 20:19 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.
- 20:20 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.

HISTORY:

Chapter 19:38-42 ¹When the soldiers were through with their gruesome work God had prepared two high ranking men to prepare Jesus body for burial and to place it in a proper tomb. After a crucifixion, the Romans usually left the dead body hanging for the beasts of prey to come and get. However, the Jews removed exposed bodies. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who were secret disciples, came to prepare Jesus for burial (vv. 38-39). Both men were wealthy and members of the Sanhedrin. These men were changed more by Jesus death than by His life.

Because it was almost the Sabbath (which began at sundown) it was necessary for the burial to take place quickly. Joseph got permission from Pilate to bury Jesus' body. Jewish burial customs included washing the body and covering it with cloth and oils or spices (v. 40). This is why the hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes were used. It seems evident that Joseph and Nicodemus had carefully planned their activities during the crucifixion. It would have been very hard to secure a tomb at the last minute and they would not have been able to purchase 100 pounds of costly spices so quickly.

As soon as these two men had Jesus' body prepared for burial they took it and placed it in a new tomb near the place of the crucifixion (vv. 41-42). Matthew records that this was Joseph's own tomb that he had cut out of the rock (Matt. 27:60). This fulfills Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah, though despised and rejected by men, would be with the rich in His death (Isaiah 53:9).

LESSON:

John 20:1-2 Mary's Concern

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-burial-of-jesus/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

20:1 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. Other gospels tell us that Mary came with several of the women, but here in the Gospel of John we're focusing on Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene stands out as the most prominent of the women witnessing the resurrection of the Lord. Her love and devotion was very deep, for Jesus cast seven devils out of her Mk.16:9. Mary displayed a special quality of devotion. It was "*the first day of the week.*" In Matthew, it actually says that Mary Magdalene's visit to the tomb was at "*the end of the sabbath*" (when the Sabbath was completely finished). In John, "*the first day of the week*" was significant:

1. This was significant to the early Christian believers, because they broke away from the common division of the week which began with the Sabbath or Saturday. They began to count their days beginning with Sunday, the day of the resurrection of their Lord.
2. This also meant that Jesus had been in the grave for three days just as He had said.
3. Also that Jesus was in the grave on the Sabbath unable to observe the laws governing the great season of the Passover and the Sabbath. He was dead. Therefore, the law and its observances had no authority over Him. This is symbolic of the identification believers gain in Christ. In Christ's death believers become dead to the law.

Mary sees the stone taken away or rolled away from the entrance of the sepulcher which is the tomb. In Jesus' day tombs were closed by rolling a huge cartwheel-like stone in front of the entrance. They were almost impossible to remove. The stone usually weighed several tons and further secured by being sealed. In the case of Jesus' tomb, further precautions were taken by placing a patrol to guard against any foul play. This guard consisted of a large number of men (Matt.28:4, 11). Mary would have had trouble removing the stone, but now there was something worse...

20:2 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. The Gospel of John doesn't mention that Mary went into the tomb or saw any angels but only that she ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved (John) and tells them the problem—someone has taken Jesus' body and she didn't know where they had taken Him.

John 20:3-10 The Disciples Believe

20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. There was a race to the tomb to see what Mary was talking about; to see if she was hallucinating.

20:4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. As the race continued John outran Peter.

20:5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. When John arrived at the tomb, he just glanced in and noticed the linen clothes called grave clothes and Jesus was not within the clothes.

20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, —The impulsive Peter does not just stop outside the tomb, he goes directly inside. If the body had been removed by the authorities or stolen by someone, the linen clothes would have been taken with the body or left in a disheveled mess, thrown someplace on the floor. He sees and observes that the linens were still in there fold, wrapped just like they would be wrapped around a body—as if the body had just evaporated. They were not disheveled and disarranged and scattered.

20:7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Two things found in the tomb, but no body. The napkin was neatly folded that covered Jesus' head or face and the linen clothes wrapped together in its place. ²According to Jewish Tradition, as long as the Napkin was folded

² <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/things-i-found-in-an-empty-tomb-ray-napier-sermon-on-easter-resurrection-145817.asp>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

on the Table the Master of the House was not done. Apparently Jesus left a Message that morning with the *Napkin that was Folded*. "*I am not done Yet!*" It told me that He had to ascend back to the Father to send the Holy Ghost back. It told me, He was not done *Saving*, He was not done *Healing*, He was not done *Delivering*. His work was not done. The Greatest Message in that Tomb was a Traditional Napkin, Telling the World I am not done. Make no mistake about it, The Jews and the Romans, understood what He left in that Tomb. I have good news for you, He is not done yet!!!! I know His last words on the cross before He rendered His Spirit was, "It is Finished!" Now they had to see him again, before ascending to His Father. There had to be witnesses that He rose from the grave; he was still alive, so He was not done yet!

20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. After seeing Peter go in, John now enters into the sepulcher. Peter had gone in (v6) and saw the linen clothes and the napkin and still trying to wrap his head around what he sees. But here, John sees the same things, but he just didn't see; he also believed!

What did he see and believe? He is now an eyewitness to the empty tomb. Seeing the linen clothes penetrated his mind, and he believed.

What did he believe? Well, he believed what Mary had said was true—Jesus was no longer in the tomb.

What did he believe? Could he have remembered what Jesus said in the Gospel of John? —Jh.16:16-"*A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father*" They didn't quite understand it then. But as Jesus continued to speak to them, the disciples replied, "*we believe thou camest forth from God. Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?*"(Jh.16:30). Could John have realized as he saw the grave clothes which were untouched but were still neatly in their place and believed that Jesus had gone to the Father? Could John have thought to believe what Jesus said, or only, that of what Mary had said is true? Well the next verse say they didn't know the scripture.

20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. We have two degrees of men with two perceptions in their actions of behavior. ³John, who leaned on Jesus' breast, and Peter, who was so inquisitive and desirous of knowing our Lord's meaning in everything, did not understand the sense of His words, nor of those places of Scripture He had reference to. I also have two scenarios about this scripture.

- The first: '*I will rise again*' was never mentioned in John's Gospel until now. They knew about Jesus being the Resurrection and Life, when Jesus told Martha to believe about Lazarus; "*...he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...*" (Jh.11:24-26). The disciples were there. The scripture mentioned "*...and be killed, and on the third day be raised*" in Matt.16:21; Lk.24:7, 46 NKJV; and "*Rise again*" is mentioned in Matt., Mk., and Lk. Why they didn't know is not explained.
- Secondly: because of TLB translation—v8-9 "*Then I went in too, and saw, and believed (that he had risen) for until then we hadn't realized that the Scriptures said he would come to life again!*" This translation tends to say that it hadn't really crossed their mind that he would come to life again until now. John realized it when he went into the tomb of Jesus and saw the linen clothes. Before when hearing it from Mary, hadn't fazed him.

There you are!

20:10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. This was a strange thing to even witness, so they only thought of returning to their own home; the place where they were temporarily residing.

John 20:19-20 Jesus' Appearance

³ <http://gill.biblecommenter.com/john/20.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

20:19 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. It is still the first day of the week when Mary goes to the tomb but now evening has come and the disciples are assembled behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. In verse 18 Mary goes back to them to give them Good News: she had seen the Lord and The Living Word sends this message— "*I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God, and your God*" v17. They knew where to go according to (Matt., Mk., and Lk.) to meet in Galilee as told to them by the women. Now, they are assembled there in the upper room waiting for Jesus. Mind you, these doors were locked doors for a reason. They thought they would be next to be killed, but here is Jesus suddenly standing in the midst of them speaking a word of Peace! They didn't open the door for Him, He just appeared, manifested Himself in their midst. Yes, that also frightened them! Jesus says to them, "*Peace be with you,*" because He knew they were afraid.

20:20 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. In Luke 24:39 He says, "*Behold my hands and feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see...*" They thought they were looking at a ghost. The two things that Jesus did to assure them and prove that it was really He in the Gospel of John was...

1. He used the simple day to day greeting among the Jews: "*Peace be unto you*" (v19). This had to give some indication that it was Him.
2. He showed them His wounds: hands and side. They had to know for sure, this was He.

They had to believe by now. Yes they were now glad because now Jesus was before them all and giving proof. This was not a second-hand witness; this was a first hand witness of Jesus. It is truly the dawn of a new day in every life that believes in Jesus!

SUMMARY:

Jesus had been crucified on Friday (or Thursday, as some believe). His body was in the tomb until the resurrection, which certainly took place before dawn on Sunday morning. Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb on the first day of the week, early while it is still dark because she had a concern, that is, to take care of our Lord's body. She finds the stone rolled from the tomb and now her biggest concern is: who has taken the body for the body of Jesus is missing. She runs back to tell Peter and John that Jesus is not in the tomb.

They take off; John gets there first, stoops and glances in while Peter barges pass John and goes inside the tomb. Yes Mary is right, no Jesus inside the tomb; no body, just His grave clothes all neatly in place. Peter sees and wonders while John sees and believes. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. There was nothing else to do so they went home.

By evening we really find out the truth of the matter. As the disciples and all are shut-up behind closed and locked doors, Jesus suddenly appears to them and says "*Peace be unto you*" and then shows them the wounds in His hands and side. By now the disciples are overjoyed for now they have seen the lord with their own eyes.

APPLICATION:

What has Jesus told us in scripture that we have not quite believed? We don't have to wonder about where Jesus is. We know that He is on the right hand of the Father and we have God's Holy Spirit who is with us and in us at all times to teach us truth. He appears in the most awesome ways to get our attention. Put Him first in your life!