

John 20 Easter Sunday

This chapter records three **post-resurrection appearances of Christ**.

Each appearance brought about a **different result** in the lives of those involved.

I. Mary Saw the Lord (20:1–18)

II. The Disciples Saw the Lord (20:19–23)

III. Thomas Saw the Lord (20:24–31)

Mary.

1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

8Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

10Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

- She thought someone had stolen Christ's body.
- She ran to tell **Peter** and **John**, who in turn visited the tomb.
- They saw that the body was gone!
- Jesus had returned to life in power and glory and had passed through the graveclothes and the tomb itself!
- The men believed in His resurrection.
- **They** go back home without proclaiming the message of the risen Christ.
- **Mary** saw two angels in the tomb but her grief did not let them comfort her.
- The **person** she then saw was really **Christ**, but her eyes were clouded so that she could not recognize Him.
- When Jesus spoke her name, she recognized Him.
- Mary's meeting with Christ made her a **missionary**!

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

The Disciples.

- **Sunday is the Lord's Day**, the first day of the week, and speaks of life and rest before works. It reminds us of God's **grace**.
- Christ came through the locked doors in His glorified body and brought the fearful men **peace**.
- The first "peace" is peace with God, based on His sacrifice on the **cross**.
- The second peace is the peace of God that comes from His presence with us (see Phil. 4).

- Our Lord's breathing upon them reminds us of Gen. 2:7, when God breathed life into Adam, and also of 2 Tim. 3:16, where "inspiration" means "God-breathed."
- **This action was personal and individual, giving them the spiritual power and discernment they would need to fulfil His commission.**

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Thomas

- **Thomas** was not present at the first meeting.
- How many things we miss by being absent from the Church.
- “Except I see . . . I will not believe!” (v. 25)
- The next Lord’s Day, when the disciples were together, Jesus appeared to them again and addressed Thomas.
- Thomas saw the Lord and forgot all about his demands for proof!
- “My Lord and my God!” The sight of Christ’s wounds won his heart.
- Christ states here that **you** and **I today** can have the same assurance and blessing, for we are among those who believe, yet have not seen Him.

As you review these three appearances of Christ, you can see the different results.

- With **Mary**, the issue was her **love** for Christ.
- With the **disciples**, the issue was their **hope**. They were locked in a room, huddling together in **fear**!
- With **Thomas**, the issue was **faith**: he would not believe unless he saw **proof**.

For us?

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- Because Jesus Christ is alive today, our faith is secure. ***"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain"*** (1 Cor. 15:17).
- We have a living hope through His resurrection from the dead. First Corinthians 15:19 says, ***"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."***