

## SERMON OUTLINE

In John 20:1-18 we observe 6 responses to Jesus' resurrection.

- I. Mary responds with confusion (vs. 1-2).
- II. Peter responds with contemplation (vs. 3, 6-7, 10).
- III. John responds with faith (vs. 3-5, 8-9, 19).
- IV. Mary responds with grief (vs. 11-15).
- V. Jesus responds with a message of hope (vs. 16-17).
- VI. Mary responds with obedience (v. 18).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Resurrection Sunday, March 27, 2016

Passage: John 20:1-18

Memory Passage: John 20:17

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 20:1-18.** Considering the day before the resurrection was not only a Sabbath but also Passover, what would have been the emotional and spiritual state of the average Jew? How does this contrast with those of the followers of Christ?
- (b) Why does John (and all the other gospel writers) refer to this day as “the first day of the week” rather than, “the 3<sup>rd</sup> day?”
- (c) Why does Mary Magdalene go to the tomb so early, and what do you think she expected to find?
- (d) “So she ran . . .” (v. 2). Why did she run?
- (e) Given what Mary told the disciples, what did she think happened at the tomb? Was resurrection even a possibility?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 20:1-18.** Using one word each, how would you characterize Peter’s & John’s response (vs. 3-10)?
- (b) Peter observes the grave cloths but John tells us nothing about what he thought. What is significant about these details?
- (c) What did John see that caused him to believe (v. 8), and what did he believe?
- (d) Because Scripture does not contradict itself, explain how v. 8 (“he saw and believed”) and v. 9 (“as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead”) are both possible.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 20:1-18.** Using one word, how would you characterize Mary’s response in verses 11-15?
- (b) Why do both the angels and Jesus ask Mary why she was weeping?
- (c) How could Mary have mistaken Jesus as the gardener, and what happened that gave her clarity concerning His identity?
- (d) Which of the 3 disciples’ reactions would your reaction most closely have resembled if you were one of the witnesses of the resurrection, and why?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 20:1-18, Matt. 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, & Luke 24:1-12.** Compare and contrast each of the 4 resurrection accounts and take specific note of the differences between each account. Imagine yourself in a discussion with someone who does not accept the resurrection of Jesus as factual and give an answer to the following objections: (1) The resurrection accounts are not true because there are discrepancies between the times each writer says the first witnesses went to the tomb. (2) These accounts cannot be true because they disagree among themselves about who went to the tomb. (3) I can’t believe in the resurrection because the writers can’t even agree on how many angels were there, and if they were angels or men! (4) How can we trust these witnesses’ claim of Jesus being resurrected when these easy-to-record details are in conflict, and they did not seem to even believe themselves that Jesus was, or could be, raised from the dead?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 20:1-18.** Why does Jesus differentiate between Mary and Himself (my/your father; my/your God)?
- (b) Why does Jesus tell Mary to tell the other disciples about his ascending instead of His resurrection, and how will this bring comfort and hope to those who hear?
- (c) What is your response to the resurrection now: What difference does it make that Jesus has risen from the dead? How does it affect your message? Your decision making? Your work life? Your parenting? Your marriage? Your fight against sin?
- (d) How does the truth of the resurrection overcome the disciple’s fear and Mary’s grief? How do these truths help you use the truth of the resurrection to minister to those who are fearful or grieving?

DATE: March 27, 2016

PASSAGE: John 20:1-18

*Resurrection Responses*