

Home Group Helps

John 20:1-18

I Have Seen the Lord

I. An [Almost] Empty Tomb (v.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. ² 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." ³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. ⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

II. A Risen Lord (v.11-18) – ¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷ 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.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and *that* He had said these things to her.

1. Launching Question(s):

- When did you first believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Describe some of the emotions experienced by the disciples in this event. What did they go through?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Why is belief in the resurrection of Christ so important to the Christian faith according to 1 Cor. 15:14-20?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- According to the sermon, there are other incorrect theories for empty tomb besides the “theft” theory spread by the Sanhedrin (Matt. 28:13):
 1. Swoon theory
 2. “No-burial” theory – body was into mass grave, Jesus was never buried in THE tomb
 3. Hallucination Theory – induced by ardent expectation all hallucinated
 4. Telepathy theory – no physical resurrection but God sent divine telepathic messages to the believers making them think Jesus was alive
 5. Séance Theory – powerful spiritualist used dark powers to fool people
 6. Mistaken identity theory – someone impersonating Jesus duped disciples
- What are some evidences that might counter the erroneous claims of each theory?

5. Application Question(s):

- Mary ran to the disciples to tell them, “I have seen the Lord.”
- How can we do the same to others this week?