

JOHN 20:1-31

Raised to New Life

Memory Verse

"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'—and that He had said these things to her."

John 20:18

Real-life Problems

Consider how many times a day—no, how many times a minute!—you are hindered by the fact that your body is decaying and vulnerable to death. Perhaps if you are young, you won't feel aches and pains. But I bet you feel cavities in your teeth and you feel broken bones! What about cancer? Global pandemics? Car accidents? To recognize it all can be overwhelming... and that's just the physical death we experience.

The Good News

Jesus Christ was killed, subjected to death just like us. In His death, He took the punishment for our sin. But then, to everyone's amazement, He came back to life! When He rose again, He showed us that not only are we no longer guilty, but we are being made new creatures! He is bringing us—our bodies, our minds, even our earth—back to life!

I. Introduction

What's going on?

REMINDE

In the last lesson, we witnessed the Jews insisting that Jesus be crucified, in spite of there being no evidence to convict Him. On the cross, Jesus finished His mission by purchasing salvation through His death for those who would believe in and follow Him.

TODAY WE'LL LEARN

- 1) When Mary Magdalene and the disciples arrive at the tomb, they do not find Jesus' body in the grave. Instead, He has come back to life!
- 2) Jesus reveals Himself to Mary Magdalene at the tomb, to the disciples twice as they gathered together, and to Thomas, who had to see to believe.
- 3) Jesus' appearances after the resurrection prove that He defeated death and did what He had promised.

Read

Read **John 20:1-31** on your own.

II. Questions

A. WHAT?

1) Who was the first to discover the empty tomb? What do they do when they find the tomb empty (vv. 1-2)?

2) Who does Mary Magdalene bring back with her, and what do they find (vv. 3-10)?

3) Mary Magdalene assumed that Jesus' body had been stolen or taken away by the Romans. But Peter and John find the burial cloths folded up inside the tomb, and the face cloth folded separately (vv. 5-7). What would this indicate to the disciples about what did and did not happen to Jesus' body?

4) Peter and John go back home in confusion, but Mary Magdalene stays at the tomb. What happens when she is there, alone (vv. 11-18)?

5) What causes Mary to recognize Jesus (v. 16)?

6) What does Jesus do when He visits the disciples for the first time (vv. 19-20)?

7) What does Jesus give the disciples in the upper room (vv. 21-23)?

8) Thomas had trouble believing that all of this was real. How did Jesus respond to Thomas (vv. 24-29)?

9) What does John say has been the purpose of his book (vv. 30-31)?

B. SO WHAT?

1) If “the other disciple” is John, as is commonly believed, then the author of the book we’ve been reading was the second person to enter the empty tomb. How do you think that experience impacted him? How do you think it changed him?

2) What do you think the disciples thought when Mary Magdalene told them she had seen Jesus alive? What about when He entered the upper room?

3) What do Jesus' wounds tell us about the nature of His risen body?

4) Jesus entered a room to which the doors were locked (v. 26). What does this tell us about the nature of His risen body?

5) Jesus' response to Thomas' doubt is this: first, He says, "Peace." Then, He tenderly allows Thomas to touch His wounds. He gives Thomas what Thomas says he needs to believe. What does this show us about how Jesus interacts with us when we doubt?

6) Jesus' resurrection is the culmination—the final good ending—to John's entire Gospel. The resurrection also went on to be the most important event for the new Christian church, something that was discussed in the epistles much more often than the cross. Why do you think the resurrection was such an important event?

C. NOW WHAT?

1) Perhaps, like Thomas, you have a hard time believing that the resurrection really happened, since you didn't see it yourself. What are some ways you can know that it really happened?

2) What hope and encouragement does the resurrection offer you as you face what seem like losing battles in your own life?

3) How does the way Jesus responds to Thomas in his doubt influence the way you will bring your own doubt to Jesus? How does it influence the way you treat others when they doubt?

Supporting resources

1) Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? If it is a struggle for you, go to God just like Thomas did. Ask Him to show you the truth.

- ## QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOUR PARENTS

- Copyright © 2020 Rooted Ministries, Inc. All Rights Reserved.