

## **At the Empty Tomb – Why Are You Weeping?**

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John 20:1-18 (page 89 in the black Bibles)

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April 23, 2023

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**The main focus of today's text is the empty tomb and the initial responses from Mary Magdalene, Peter and John (i.e. "the other disciple whom Jesus loved").**

### Outline

- I. The Setting (20:1)
- II. Mary Magdalene's Initial Response to the Empty Tomb (20:2)
- III. Peter's & John's Response to Mary's News (20:3-10)
- IV. Mary and the Angels (20:11-13)
- V. Mary and Jesus (20:14-17)
- VI. Mary Magdalene's Response to Jesus' Command (20:18)

John has included a number of stories of Jesus and His interaction with certain women.

Jesus & Mary (Jesus' mother) John 2:3-5, 12; 19:25-27

Jesus & the Samaritan Woman John 4:7-29

Jesus & Martha & Mary John 11:1-44; 12:1-3

Jesus & Mary Magdalene John 19:25; 20:11-2, 11-18

### **I. The Setting (20:1)**

"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."

First day of the week

Mary Magdalene – (Luke 8:1-3; John 19:25)

Saw the stone already taken away from the tomb

Accounts of the empty tomb from the other Gospel Accounts: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12

### **II. Mary Magdalene's Initial Response to the Empty Tomb (20:2)**

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."

They – maybe the Jewish leaders or maybe the soldiers.

### III. Peter's & John's Response to Mary's News (20:3-10)

Peter & the other disciple ran to the tomb (vv. 3-4a).

The other disciple ran faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; stooping and looking in he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in (vv. 4b-5).

And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself (vv. 6-7)

See John 11:44 where Lazarus was raised from the dead.

So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed (v. 8).

A theme mentioned before in John's Gospel: believing and seeing and believing. John 5:19; 10:38; 14:10

"For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead" (v.9). (See John 2:12-22)

Psalms 16:8-11 as preached by Peter on Pentecost; (also Acts 13:29-39)

Luke 24:25-27, 44-47

**"So the disciples went away again to their own homes" (v.10).**

Peter – Luke 24:11-12 ...he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened."

### IV. Mary and the Angels (20:11-13)

**"But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping;** and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 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 (vv. 11-12).

"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." (v. 13)

**V. Mary and Jesus (20:14-17)**

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know it was Jesus (v. 14).

Jesus said to her, **“Woman, why are you weeping?”**

Whom are you seeking? (v. 15a)

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.” (v. 15b)

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

John 10:3-4, 27

She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni! (which means, Teacher). (v. 16)

See John 1:38.

Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; (v. 17a)

but go to My brethren and say to them, “I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.” (v. 17b)

**VI. Mary Magdalene’s Response to Jesus’ Commission (20:18)**

Mary Magdalene came announcing to the disciples,  
“I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.”

## **The Empty Tomb**

What is your response to the empty Jesus' empty tomb?

1 Peter 1:3-9

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

The resurrection was central to apostolic preaching.

Acts 2:22-36; 3:12-26; 4:7-12; 5:29-32; 10:34-43; 13:26-39; 17:22-34; 24:14-16; 26:4-8

The resurrection is essential part of the gospel.

Romans 1:1-4

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 12-20

The resurrection removes the sting of death. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The resurrection is the key to perseverance of the saints. 1 Corinthians 15:58