

The Resurrection of Jesus

Do you believe?

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. **2** Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. **3** They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” **4** Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.

2 There had been a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

When Mary Madgalene saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb, **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.” **3** So Peter and John started running to the tomb.

The other women had stayed at the tomb, and upon entering it they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; 5 and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him. He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” 7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’” 8 They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and **at first** they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

4 Meanwhile, Peter and John were running together to the tomb. And John 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 John then also entered, and he saw and believed. **9** For **they still** did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. **10** So the disciples went away again to their own homes, marveling at what had happened.

11 By this time **Mary** had returned to the tomb, and 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, to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping, and said “I have seen the Lord,” and *reported what* He had said to her. **11** When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

Meanwhile, the other women, having overcome their fear, and having also been filled with joy over the news of Jesus’ resurrection, finally ran to tell his disciples. **9** Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.

(11 While the women were going to tell the apostles these things, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. **12** When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, **13** telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ **14** If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” **15** So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.)

8 And the women remembered what Jesus had said about His death and resurrection beforehand, **9** and they returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the apostles and to all the rest. **11** But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.

13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. **14** And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. **15** While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. **16** But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. **17** And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad. **18** One *of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?” **19** And He said to them, “What things?” And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, **20** and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.

21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. **22** But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, **23** and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. **24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.” **25** And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” **27** Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

28 And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. **29** But they urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them. **30** When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. **32** They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?” **33** And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, and the two Emmaus disciples reported what they had seen but they did not believe them as they had not believed Mary.

Jesus then appeared to Peter (I Cor. 15:5), who then returned to the others who were gathered together. They all began saying, “The Lord really has risen and has appeared to Simon.” The two Emmaus disciples *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

Now it was the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, and the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. **36** While they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood in their midst and *said to them, “Peace be to you.” **37** But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. **38** And He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40** And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” **42** They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; **43** and He took it and ate *it* before them. *As they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.*

44 Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, **47** and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

The disciples rejoiced **that** they saw the Lord. **21** So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.” **27** Then He **said* to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus **said* to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed.”

30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

(John 21) After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested *Himself* in this way. **2** Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. **3** Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will also come with you.” They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** So Jesus *said to them, “Children, you do not have any fish, do you?” They answered Him, “No.”

6 And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find *a catch*.” So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved *said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and threw himself into the sea. **8** But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net *full* of fish.

9 So when they got out on the land, they *saw a charcoal fire *already* laid and fish placed on it, and bread. **10** Jesus *said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have now caught.” **11** Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.

12 Jesus *said to them, “Come *and* have breakfast.” None of the disciples ventured to question Him, “Who are You?” knowing that it was the Lord. **13** Jesus *came and *took the bread and *gave *it* to them, and the fish likewise. **14** This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

At some point over this period of 40 days Jesus also then appeared to over 500 brethren at once and later to James (I Cor. 15:6-7).

Also at some point during this time Jesus tells them to meet Him at a certain mountain in Galilee. Matt. 28:**16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Mark 16:15) “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

At the end of this period of time, Jesus encourages the apostles to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, leads them to Bethany, blesses them and ascends into heaven (Luke 24, Acts 1).

Take Aways

- These things really happened. These are real people who witnessed Jesus dying on the cross and then witnessed Him alive again, literally risen from the dead. They experienced firsthand the hope and love of listening to and being with Jesus, the devastation of watching Him die, and the amazement and fear and bewilderment and joy of seeing Him alive again. Read through these accounts and try to imagine seeing what they saw and feeling what they felt as they entered the empty tomb and saw the wrappings or as they saw and touched and clung to Jesus, days after seeing Him brutally murdered. Let these accounts affect you and move you.

Take Aways

- Belief is the central theme to the resurrection accounts. The women heard the good news from the angels, Peter and John saw the evidence of the empty tomb, the disciples behind locked doors heard the good news from Mary and the other women and the Emmaus disciples and finally from Peter, and Thomas heard it again from the other apostles. Look at how each person responded to the news of the risen Lord.

Take Aways

- John saw the empty tomb and believed
- The women, although trembling and astonished and afraid after their interaction with the angels at the empty tomb, were ultimately overcome with joy of the good news and ran to tell the others.
- The hiding disciples refused to believe after Mary, then the other women, and then the Emmaus 2 told them about seeing Jesus themselves. They began entertaining the idea that it could be true after Peter also tells of seeing Jesus. They then struggle to believe even after seeing Jesus themselves and touching Him themselves, to the point that He eats some fish to further prove He is once again a living “flesh and bones” human.
- Some of the apostles **still** doubted after all of this, struggling with belief even as Jesus gives the “great commission”

Take Aways

- Toward the end of this amazing account, Jesus meets with the apostles on a mountain in Galilee and tells them to spread the good news of salvation through the risen Son of God, that ultimately **whoever believes will be saved** and whoever disbelieves will be condemned.

- Do you believe?

Do you believe?

- Belief is more than knowing answers to bible class questions.
- Belief is more than acknowledging with words that Jesus is God's Son.
- Belief is even more than physically seeing and touching Jesus after His resurrection.

- John saw the empty tomb and believed, even though he still didn't fully understand the Scriptures
- Mary and the Emmaus 2 believed and it compelled them to literally run to share the gospel with others
- The other women's belief overcame trembling and astonishment and fear (before even seeing Jesus themselves yet) and filled them with joy and compelled them also to share the news with others

Do you believe?

- The belief of the apostles and first century christians compelled them to spread the gospel and live for Jesus despite rejection from their friends and families, forfeiting of careers, imprisonments, beatings, stonings, crucifixions and grotesque state-authorized murder for sport.
- What has your belief compelled you to do?

Do you believe?

- Before they truly believed, the apostles were hiding in a room with locked doors and windows, afraid of what was outside. Even a week after Jesus had visited them and they literally saw and touched Him, they were still inside the room with the doors locked.
- Do you truly believe? Are you in some way hiding inside a room with locked doors and windows, afraid of what is outside?

Do you believe?

I hope the account of Jesus' resurrection impacts you. I hope you appreciate the reality of what happened and let it move you to true, saving belief.

While this lesson was primarily directed towards those who have already put on Christ, if you are here this morning and you are convicted that Jesus is God's Son, and that He lived and died and was raised from the dead so that you could be made right with God, and you are willing to confess Jesus as the Lord of your life and be baptized to wash away your sins, please let us know TODAY or even come forward now as we stand and sing.