

The Tomb is Empty: He's Risen!

Scriptures: John 20:1-17; Text: John 20:18

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

Context:

Mary returned with other women (Mary, mother of James and Salome) to the Tomb because Jesus' burial was done on Friday in some haste. They wanted to contribute to Jesus' burial (Mark 16:1), so they brought spices as soon as the Sabbath was over. It could be that the women needed to learn the preparations Joseph and Nicodemus had already done (19:20). Nicodemus didn't have time on Friday to anoint Jesus ultimately bodily because he had a lot of spices, 75 pounds. It was very early in the morning, "still dark" (John 20:1).

On Friday, they laid Jesus on the burial preparation bench in the receiving room of the tomb chamber. The women thought they could return following the Sabbath, rolling back the stone and completing the burial, sliding Jesus' body into one of the Tomb's sliding niches. Mary's early morning arrival misses the details seen later by Peter and John because it was still dark in the morning.

The purpose of the rolling stone is to open and close the stone along with the stone track access, as other family members might be buried over the years. The synoptic gospels record the women's anxiety about who will help them move the heavy stone. When Mary finds out that the tomb door has been removed to one side, she immediately presumes that someone has entered the Tomb. The synoptic gospels tell us that the women stepped inside (Mark 16:5).

Outline

- I. The Tomb is Empty!
 - Illus.** Opening Story – He's Alive!
- A. Mary Reports to the Disciple What She Had Observed [John 20:1-2]
 - i. The stone had been removed from the entrance (v. 1)
 - ii. They have taken the Lord out of the Tomb, and we don't know where they have put him (v.2)
 - iii. Life Applications
- B. Peter and 'the Other Disciple' Went to Check the Tomb (John 20: 3-10). **Illus:** Derek Redmond – Olympic 1992
 - i. Both start the race to the Tomb; John Outruns Peter, bents over, and looks at the strips of linen; but doesn't go in (v. 3-5)
 - ii. Peter enters and sees up close. He sees; Jesus' Grave Clothes lying there, separate from strips of linen (v.6-7)
 - iii. 'The Other Disciple' saw and believed (v.8)
 - iv. They still didn't understand that Jesus had to be raised and returned to their place of stay (v. 10)
- II. He has Risen: Jesus Appears to Mary (John 20:11-17)
 - A. Mary Cries and Continues to Seek Jesus and Finds Him (John 20:11-12)
 - i. Mary stands outside the Tomb, crying, and bent over to look, sees two angels; the angel questions, and she shares her concerns (v. 11-13)
 - ii. Mary turned around but didn't recognize Jesus (v.14)
 - iii. Jesus asked two questions, and Mary thought He was the gardener and pleaded her request (v.15)

- iv. The Conversation with the Risen Lord! (v. 16-17)
- v. Life Applications

B. Mary Reports to the Disciples (John 20:18)

- i. 'I have seen the Lord,' she said. (v.18a)
- ii. She shared with them all the things (v.17) that Jesus had said (v.18b)

III. **Conclusion:** The Tomb is Empty: He's Risen!

Questions and Answers:

1. What did Jesus' Tomb look like? Typically, Tomb back then has a _____ stone gate.
 - a. A rolling stone b. a burial chamber c. burial niches d. ossuaries (bone boxes), e. all
2. The Synoptic Gospels note that Jesus was laid in his own new _____
 - a. Tomb b. This rock-cut Tomb was made by Joseph of Arimathea, a follower of Jesus c. all
3. Where did Mary Magdalene come from? Why did she love the Lord so much?
Refer to Luke 8:1-3 and Matt. 27:55

She came from the Galilean village of _____ Jesus had cast ____ demons out of her.

- a. The Galilean village, Magdala b. seven demons c. both are correct d. None
4. Why did Mary flee to report to the disciples? Because she saw that the tomb door was ____ away. Which answer choice is correct?
 - a. Rolled (Matthew 28:2) b. removed from the entrance (John 20:1) c. Both D. None
 - b. Who were the women that didn't say anything because they were afraid?
(Refer to Mark 16:8 for the answer: Fill in the blanks) _____
 - c. Who did you find not afraid among these women? Refer to Mark 16:1. _____
 - d. Jesus said, "Do not _____ on to me, for I have not yet _____ to the Father.
 - i. Cling; returned ii. hold on to me; ascended iii. Only i, iv. all
 - e. Jesus said, "Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father, and your _____, to my God and your _____." (John 20:17, NIV). i. Father; God ii. God; Father iii. Only i, iv. all
 - f. Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the News, "I have _____ the Lord! (John 20: 18a, NIV).
 - i. seen ii. heard iii. touched iv. only i, v. all
 5. **Take home lesson:** God has given to us the glorious Gospel of our Risen Savior and Master:
 - a. We must pray that God helps us joyfully receive the good News for ourselves.
 - b. We must share this Good News with grateful hearts with others as well (Refer to John 20:17-18)
 - c. We haven't seen Him yet, we believe; how blessed we are (Refer to John 20:29)
 - d. Let's share all these blessings with everyone we know; He is Risen!
 - e. All these options apply to me – thanks be to our Risen Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is Risen, indeed!