

The Gospel of John

The Risen Savior

John 20:1-31

The cross is now past, and Christ has been buried for three days and three nights. Despite the many times He foretold His own resurrection, it seems that no one was anticipating it occurring. We find His followers adjusting to the light, because after three dark days the Son rose.

The Setting

- Sunday, 18th of Nisan, and Sunday, 25th of Nisan
- These events take place around Jerusalem.

The Story

- Mary, Peter, and John find the tomb empty – vs. 1-10
 - Mary Magdalene is the first to discover that Christ is not in tomb – vs. 1-2
 - Mary, mother of James, and Salome are not mentioned – Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1
 - Peter and John rush to investigate – vs. 3-5
 - The empty clothes in the empty tomb – vs. 6-7
 - The disciples still did not fully understand – vs. 8-10
- Christ appears to Mary Magdalene – vs. 11-18
 - Mary stays behind at the tomb – vs. 11
 - The angels speak to her – vs. 12-13
 - Christ speaks to Mary, who does not recognize Him – vs. 14-15
 - Christ reveals Himself to Mary – vs. 16
 - Christ gives Mary a message for the disciples – vs. 17
 - Albert Barnes: “The reason why he forbade her to touch him now is to be sought in the circumstances of the case. Mary, filled with joy and gratitude, was about to prostrate herself at his feet, disposed to remain with him, and offer him there her homage as her risen Lord. This is probably included in the word touch in this place; and the language of Jesus may mean this: ‘Do not approach me now for this purpose. Do not delay here. Other opportunities will yet be afforded to see me. I have not yet ascended - that is, I am not about to ascend immediately, but shall remain yet on earth to afford opportunity to my disciples to enjoy my presence.’ From Matthew 28:9, it appears that the women, when they met Jesus, held him by the feet and worshipped him. This species of adoration it was probably the intention of Mary to offer, and this, at that time, Jesus forbade, and directed her to go at once and give his disciples notice that he had risen.”
 - Mary tells the disciples what happened – vs. 18
- Christ appears to the disciples, Thomas absent – vs. 19-23
 - Christ appears to the disciples – vs. 19-20

- The disciples are commissioned – vs. 21
- The disciples are empowered – vs. 22
- The nature of their mission – vs. 23
 - B.H. Carroll – “What does that mean? Evidently, as God only can forgive sins, it was not granted to these ten men to really forgive sins. But it means that they are inspired to declare the terms of remission of sins, and not to make a mistake. When the apostles hereafter shall be asked, ‘What shall I do to be saved; how shall my sins be forgiven,’ these men are inspired to tell just how that remission of sins may be obtained ; and whatever they say is as if God had said it to those asking. ‘Whosoever sins ye retain they are retained,’ that is, when they declare, as inspired men, that a man has not complied with the terms of the remission of sins, then that man has no forgiveness.”
- Christ appears to the disciples, including Thomas – vs. 24-29
 - “Doubting Thomas” - vs. 24-25
 - One week later, eight days after the Resurrection, Christ appears again – vs. 26
 - The Lord offers Himself as proof of resurrection – vs. 27
 - Thomas believes – vs. 28
 - Many more will also believe – vs. 29
- John's Epilogue
 - The purpose of John’s Gospel and the events it records – vs. 30-31