

Hallelujah! He Arose!
John 20:1-10

INTRO: The twentieth chapter of John's Gospel is the resurrection chapter. Just suppose that the Gospel of John ended with chapter nineteen, ended with the account of the death and burial of the crucified Lord. If it had, we would have no Gospel of salvation, no assurance, and no hope of eternal life. The Gospel is not only that Jesus died, nor is it only that He died and was buried. The Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are two great pillars upon which Christianity rest. They are the virgin birth and the bodily resurrection of Christ after His death on the cross and burial in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. If either of these two great pillars is destroyed, then the whole Gospel crumbles. John R. Broadus, Professor of New Testament and Homiletics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Confederate Chaplain said, "Our Lord's resurrection is a part of His saving work. He died and rose again for our salvation" (Smith 258). Note what Paul says in I Cor 15:14-17. If Christ is not risen then there's nothing to preach about and faith in Christ is empty and foolish. A dead Savior has no power to save. But thanks be to God, He is risen, and He's alive forevermore. He was seen eleven times after His death and burial: He is alive! (I Cor 15:20-22).

The twentieth chapter of John is a wonderful account of the miraculous resurrection of Christ.

I. VSS 1-2, THE STONE REMOVED FROM THE TOMB

A. Vs 1, It is Sunday morning, the first day of the week. This is the day that worship moved from Saturday to Sunday. We worship on Sunday because that's the day Jesus arose. We don't celebrate the resurrection once a year, Easter; we celebrate it every Sunday.

1. While it is still dark, several women leave their homes.
 - a. They are bringing spices to anoint the body of Jesus, a corpse (Lk 24:1, Mk 16:1).
 - b. Who are the women who come to the tomb?
 - 1- Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, and possibly others.
 - 2- John confines his story to Mary Magdalene assuming his readers are acquainted with the other Gospels.
 - 3- John does imply that others were with Mary Magdalene by quoting her words, "We know not

where they have laid him.”

2. It was still dark when the women started out; but by the time they reached the tomb, the sun had risen (Mk 16:2). It was early in the morning while the dew was still on the roses.
 - a. As they walked toward the tomb, they worried themselves about the huge stone that had been placed at the entrance of the tomb (Mk 16:3).
 - b. Suddenly, possibly at the turn in the path, they see that the heavy stone slab had been rolled away. Not just rolled away, but taken out of its groove and laid on the ground.
 - c. The stone was not removed to let Jesus out (20:26). The stone was removed to:
 - 1- Indicate that the grave had been conquered, defeated, victory over death, hell, and the grave had been achieved (I Cor 15:55-57).
 - 2- To allow Peter, John, and others to enter and see that the tomb was empty.
- B. Vs 2, Seeing that the stone was rolled away and that Jesus is not there, Mary runs to Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, John.
1. It is good to find Peter and John together. It seems that John, in love, had taken Peter in and forgiven him for denying the Lord.
 - a. John took him in when he really needed a friend.
 - b. The son of thunder had become an Apostle of love, an example for us.
 2. After finding Peter and John, Mary exclaims in terrified distress: “They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him.”
 - a. She believes the enemies have been busy. She wasn’t expecting the resurrection.
 - b. Note that she still calls Jesus, “Lord,” Greek *kurios*, “the one to whom one belongs.” She still has faith in Him, yet, she is not exercising her faith in the resurrected Lord. She thinks He’s still dead. He had taught her differently. He had taught her that He would rise the third day. We need to exercise our faith.

II. VSS 3-4, THE RACE TO THE TOMB

- A. Vs 3, Peter and John, stirred and perplexed by the report of Mary, start out for the cemetery.
 - 1. Peter and John had been grieving over the Lord's death. They were not expecting the resurrection, and the report of Mary had to be checked out.
 - 2. They may have thought Mary couldn't see well in the dark. They headed to the cemetery to see if the body of Jesus was there. J. Vernon McGee said: "Friend, you don't go into a cemetery to look for the living" (Vol 4 495).
 - a. I like what the angels at the tomb said to the women in Lk 24:25: "Why seek ye the living among the dead...."
 - b. He's alive; He's not dead. Because He lives, I can face the future.
- B. Vs 4, The other disciple is John.
 - 1. John won the race to the tomb; and getting there first, he does not enter, but waits.
 - 2. It seems that John was the youngest of the disciples. Some think that he was in his teens; and for this reason, he was able to outrun the older Peter.

III. VSS 5-8 THE GRACE CLOTHES

- A. Vs 5, Get the picture here. John gets to the tomb first; he stops at the entrance, stoops down, for many Oriental tombs had a low entrance, and looks in.
 - 1. What does he see?
 - a. He sees the linen clothes.
 - b. He does not see Jesus. Jesus is not there.
 - 2. The word for "see" in this verse is *blepo* meaning, "to observe, to contemplate, to weigh carefully."
 - a. John saw the evidence and weighed it carefully.
 - b. He knew Jesus was not there, the tomb was empty.
- B. Vs 6, Simon Peter now huffs and puffs his way to the tomb. Unlike John, Peter goes right into the tomb, and he sees (Greek *thereo* from which we get theater) the linen clothes lying there.
 - 1. They were laying there in an orderly fashion.
 - 2. Phillips says: "It was as though the form of a dead man was preserved, but the body itself was gone."
- C. Vs 7, Peter not only saw the linen clothes; he saw the napkin,

handkerchief that had been wrapped about out Lord's head, lying in a separate place. This, I believe, convinced Peter that Jesus had risen. He's alive.

- D. Vs 8, After Peter entered the tomb, John came on in.
 - 1. That's when Peter believed!
 - 2. The Bible says, "He saw and believed."
 - 3. "Saw" in this verse is the Greek word *oida* which means, "to know."
 - a. All the pieces fell together, and John knew that Jesus was alive.
 - b. He believed the Gospel: that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. Peter witnessed the empty tomb and believed. After this, many others would testify that the tomb truly is empty and that Christ is alive.
 - c. John R. Broadus, in a sermon on I Corinthians 15 in the year 1999 said of verses 3-8: "It is twenty-eight years since our great civil war began, and twenty-three years since it ended. The older persons present remember with perfect familiarity all its events from beginning to end. And there had been only the same lapse of time in the case of these witnesses whom Paul mentions" (Smith 258).

IV. VSS 9-10, THE DISCIPLES RETURN HOME

- A. Vs 9, Before the events of this first Sunday of worship, many of the wonderful Old Testament scriptures dealing with the resurrection meant little to them.
 - 1. "They had not previously understood the scripture that He must rise from the dead" (Hendriksen 451).
 - 2. Now the Old Testament took on new significance. B. H. Carroll, Confederate soldier, professor at Baylor University and later founder and president of Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said of Christ: "He claimed to be the Messiah of the Old Testament; He was challenged to give a sign that would authenticate His high claim; He did fix the sign and specified the time of the test; He did die; He was buried, and at the appointed time, though a guard stood there to prevent imposture, the body is gone" (Hutson vol 1 190).
- B. Vs 10, John and Peter return home rejoicing that Christ is alive.

1. At John's home, there was one overjoyed to hear the good news– Mary the mother of Jesus.
2. You could go home rejoicing today if you would believe that the Gospel is true.

CONCLUSION: He's Alive!

7/22/07

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