

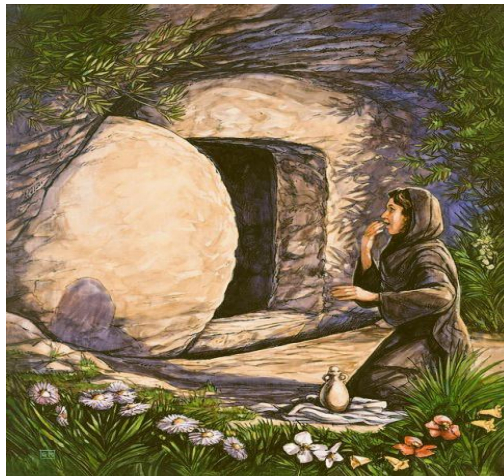
The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes
Chapter 20 PT. 1: The Empty Tomb

Introduction: We start **Chapter 20** with the Messiah now in the tomb that was purchased by Joseph of Arimathea.

John 20:1-18

Verse 1

John 20:1 (NASB) – 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* removed from the tomb.



Key: Try to imagine, the person you cherish dearly has just brutally died in front of you, and you go to the place to prepare their body, but their tomb is open.

- Mary is in shock to see that the stone is rolled away.
- Mary knows this should not be.
- She assumed the worst before even looking in the tomb.

Verses 2-3

John 20:2-3 (NASB) – ² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him.” ³ So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb.

Understanding: Mary ran to tell Peter and John (the Disciple whom Jesus Loved), because they believed it was over.

- Two of the greatest leaders of the New Testament Church felt there was no need to go to the tomb.
- John saw Jesus die.
- For him and the other disciples, that was the end.
- But they knew Mary had seen something and they went to the tomb.

Verses 4-5

John 20:4-5 (NASB) – ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and he stooped to look *in*, and saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; **however he did not go in.**

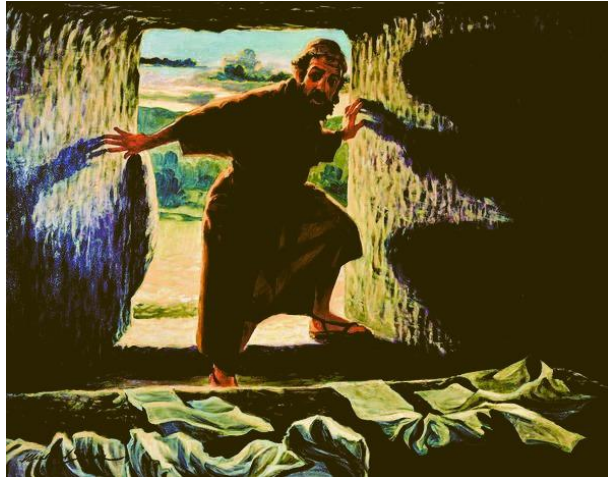


Note: John arrived at the tomb in front of Peter, but still did not go in.

- John was overcome with shock and disbelief.
- John saw with his own eyes that Jesus died and His body was handed over to Joseph of Arimathea.
- John knows they put Jesus in the tomb, so to see the linen wrapping lying there where Jesus was, was good enough.

Verses 6-7

John 20:6-7 (NASB) – ⁶ So Simon Peter also came, following him, and he entered the tomb; and he looked at the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings but folded up in a place by itself.

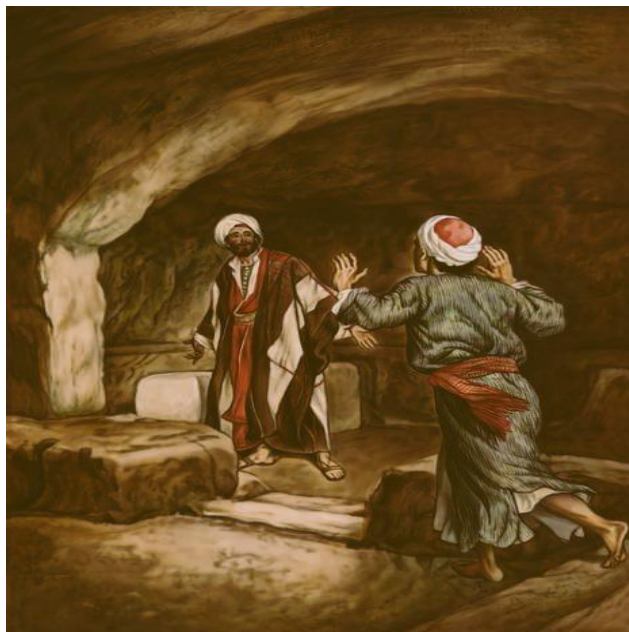


Key: Peter was no longer the one to run away. He is now the first to enter where the Master was laid.

- Even though Peter is in shock, he is now bold and committed to the Master.
- Peter is no longer hesitating in anything that has to do with the Master.
- Peter's one lapse in judgement would not cause him to shrink back again.

Verses 8-10

John 20:8-10 (NASB) – ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb **also entered then, and he saw and believed.** ⁹ For **they did not yet understand the Scripture**, that He must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own *homes*.



Note: John's belief in Jesus as Messiah did not fail. John could not believe His body was gone due to shock. Scripture tells us why: **“they did not yet understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.”**

Question: What scripture did they not understand?

Answer: Psalm 16:10 (NASB) – ¹⁰For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Understanding: Psalm 16 was written as a *Miktam* or a **“Psalm of Quiet Trust”**.

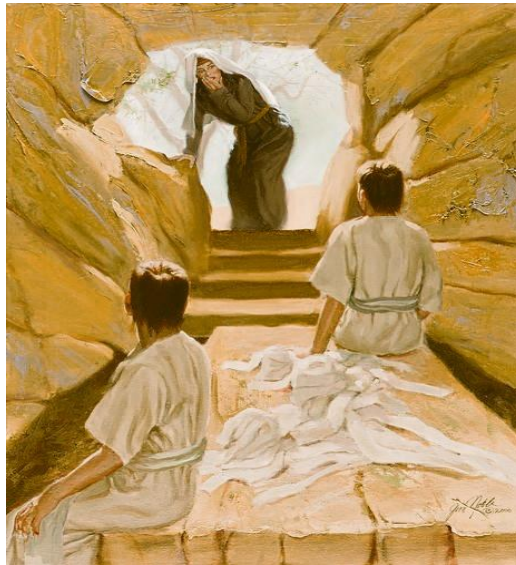
Historically Written: A Psalm of David to express his confidence in G-d's protection.

Prophetic/Messianically: Psalm 16 is viewed as a direct Messianic prophecy pointing to the death of Jesus Christ.

Key: This is why **John 20:10** states, **“the disciples went away again to their own homes”**.

Verses 11-12

John 20:11-12 (NASB) – ¹¹But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look 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.**



Note: Mary's absolute dedication to Jesus would not let her move, and again, her diligence is rewarded. Father has sent angels to ease her troubled heart.

Verses 13-14

John 20:13-14 (NASB) – 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 put Him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and **yet she did not know that it was Jesus.**

Understanding: Jesus is in a resurrected body.

- Mary is looking for the Jesus that they took off the cross.
- In her state of grief, she cannot see that this is Jesus standing in front of her.
- The last time she saw Jesus, He would have been unrecognizable.

Verse 15

John 20:15 (NASB) – ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away.”

- The first time Jesus speaks with her it is very impersonal, He calls her “**woman**”.
- It is not until Jesus engages her personally by name that the veil falls off her eyes.

Verse 16

John 20:16 (NASB) – ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher).

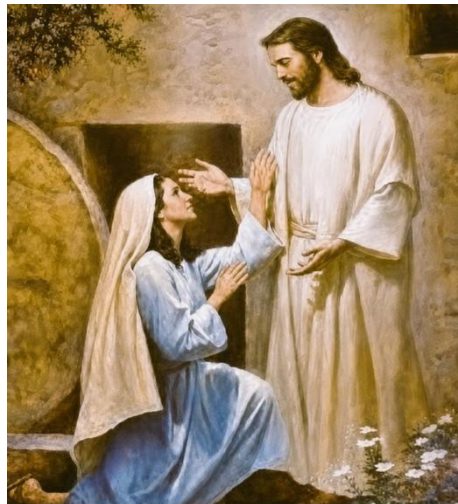


Understanding: In order for Mary to recognize Jesus, He had to approach her in a personal way, because Mary knew Him in a personal way!

- Mary's love for Jesus was personal.
- Mary had been delivered from demonic possession.
- Mary did not love Jesus based upon someone else's testimony; she had her own!

Verse 17

John 20:17 (NASB) – ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “**Stop clinging to Me**, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”



- Jesus is not being harsh or mean.
- Jesus knows He is in transition.
- Their relationship must now transition from needing the physical touch to Faith!
- Mary must transition from clinging to proclaiming.

Verse 18

John 20:18 (NASB) – ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and *that* He had said these things to her.

Note: We too must know when it's time to sit at His feet and when it's time to proclaim & to do the work!

The End