

Messiah

John 20:1-31

Key Verse: 20:31

1. Read verses 1-2. What was the time of this event? Where had Mary Magdalene been the day before? Why did she go to the tomb? What startling discovery did she make? Did she go in? What was her immediate reaction? What did she do and say?
2. Read verses 3-9. How did Peter and John react? What does this show us about the character of each one? (Notice how John identifies himself. [2; 19:26]) Why do you think he speaks of himself this way? What is the significance of the empty tomb?
3. What did the disciples discover in the tomb? What was puzzling about the strips of linen and the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head? What did John think about what he saw? What does the author's parenthetical comment mean? (9)
4. Read verses 10-13. After the disciples went home, what did Mary do? What did she see and hear? What reason did Mary give for crying? Read 14,15. When Jesus spoke to her, how did she answer? Why didn't she recognize him?
5. Read verses 16-18. When did she recognize him? What does this scene reveal about Jesus and about Mary? What mission did Jesus give Mary? What did this message mean? What was the good news she told them? (18)
6. What can we learn from Mary about love and faithfulness? How did Jesus help her human love and faithfulness grow into faith? Why do you think that God used her as the first witness to the resurrection?
7. Read verse 19. What is the time and place of this event? Who was present? What had happened earlier in the day? What was the atmosphere of the room? Why? Why did Mary's testimony make no difference to the disciples?
8. What happened that surprised everyone? How could Jesus come in through locked doors? What did he say to the disciples? Why did they need to hear his words? Read verse 20. What did Jesus do? Why? How was the atmosphere of the room changed? Why?
9. Read verses 21-23. Why did Jesus repeat his greeting? What mission did he give the disciples? How did he equip them for the task? How must they prepare? How is forgiveness related to their mission? Why is it so important?
10. Read verses 24-25. Who was missing from the room when Jesus visited first? How did he respond to the news of Jesus' resurrection? What is the problem that Thomas' attitude exposes?
11. Read verses 26-28. How did Jesus help Thomas? What was his confession of faith? In what way is this a fitting climax to John's gospel?
12. Read verses 29-31. What blessing does Jesus give to us who have not seen Jesus with physical eyes, but have read this book and believed in Jesus? What was John's purpose in writing this Gospel? Why must our faith be based on Scripture rather than on physical/material things?