

## That You May Believe (John 20)

- I. The Evidence of the Empty Tomb (1-10)
  - A. Mary Discovers the Empty Tomb (1-2)
    - 1. Mary comes to the tomb before light (1)
    - 2. Mary reports that Jesus' body has been stolen (2)
  - B. The Disciples Run to Investigate the Tomb (3-7)
    - 1. Peter and John Run to the Tomb (3)
    - 2. Peter Enters the Tomb first (4-7)
      - a. John stopped before entering (4-5)
        - i. John reaches the tomb first
        - ii. John stops, stooping to see the grave clothes
      - b. Peter enters the Tomb (6-7)
        - i. Peter goes straight in when he arrives
        - ii. Peter notices the face cloth lying by itself
  - C. The Position of the clothes proves He was not stolen
    - 1. Grave robbers or Authorities would have taken the body fully wrapped
    - 2. John Believed that Jesus had risen from the dead (8)
    - 3. But they did not yet understand how this fulfilled Scripture (9)
      - a. John believed based on the empty tomb (and possibly Jesus' previous statements)
      - b. The point is that they were not inventing the story so that they could say Scripture was fulfilled – they didn't understand all that yet
    - 4. The Disciples Went Home (10)
      - a. They were definitely confused
      - b. They were unsure about what to do
- II. The Evidence of Jesus' Appearances (11-23)
  - A. Jesus Appears to Mary (11-18)
    - 1. Mary Remains at the Tomb to Grieve (11-13)
      - a. Mary stayed when the Disciples left (11)
      - b. Mary sees two angels in the tomb (12)
      - c. Mary still believes the body is stolen (13)
    - 2. Jesus Appears to Comfort Mary (14-16)
      - a. Jesus appears to Mary disguised (14)
        - i. Perhaps she didn't recognize him in her grief
        - ii. Perhaps he was hiding His identity
        - iii. She definitely didn't recognize him at first
      - b. Mary pleads with this man to return Jesus' body (15)
        - i. Jesus asks why she cries and who she seeks
        - ii. Mary asks "the gardener" to tell her where he put Jesus
      - c. Jesus reveals himself to Mary (16)
        - i. He simply calls her name – "Mary"
        - ii. He said earlier that his sheep hear his voice

- iii. Mary responds with an excited “Rabboni”
      - This literally means “my teacher”
      - She says this with an affectionate excitement
      - Her Lord is alive
  - d. Jesus Redefines His Relationships (17)
    - i. Jesus stops her from clinging to Him
      - Evidently she attempted to embrace him in her joy
      - Jesus tells her not to cling to him because he had not yet ascended to the Father – (he meant bodily)
      - Jesus was redefining their relationship – things would no longer be the same -he was not back to resume his ministry – he was here to give final instructions before going to the Father
    - ii. Jesus commissions her to tell the disciples
      - She would tell them that Jesus will be ascending
      - She would tell them that they have a new relationship with the Father
      - He says, “Your Father and My Father” (not “our Father” Jesus is a son by birth, the believers are sons by adoption.
    - iii. Mary Obeys Jesus’ Commissions (18)
      - She came to the disciples saying, “I have seen the Lord”
      - She told them all that Jesus said
- B. Jesus Appears to the Disciples (19-23)
  - 1. Jesus Brings Peace in the Midst of Fear (19-20)
    - a. The disciples hide in fear of the Jews (19a)
      - i. Although they saw the empty tomb – they are still afraid of the ramifications of the crucifixion
      - ii. They hid behind locked doors so they would not be found
    - b. Jesus appears before the disciples (19b-20a)
      - i. Jesus stood in the midst of the locked room
      - ii. Jesus brings tidings of peace to them
      - iii. Jesus shows the proof of his crucifixion in his hands and side
    - c. The disciples rejoice when they see the Lord (20b)
  - 2. Jesus Commissions His Disciples (21-23)
    - a. Jesus Charges them with a mission (21)
      - i. Jesus brings them peace in their turmoil

- ii. Jesus sends them into the world as the Father has sent Him
- b. Jesus Empowers them for their mission (22)
  - i. Jesus breathes on them and says, "receive the Holy Spirit."
  - ii. This has been interpreted in various ways
    - It is symbolic of what was to come at Pentecost
    - It is transformational – this is where the disciples were saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit and they were baptized by him at Pentecost
    - It was an empowering for their mission as they are sent into the world to proclaim the gospel
  - iii. Jesus Gives the Authority for their mission (23)
    - The gospel is the authority they possess
    - The gospel either gives the forgiveness of sins or it retains sins if people reject it

### III. The Evidence is Given that Men May Believe (24-31)

#### A. Faith is the Proper Response to the Evidence (24-29)

##### 1. Jesus Desires Thomas' Faith (24-28)

- a. Thomas Refuses to Believe Without Seeing (24-25)
  - i. Thomas is told of Christ's resurrection (24-25a)
  - ii. Thomas refuses to believe unless he can see (25b)
- b. Jesus Appears to the Disciples Again (26)
  - i. Eight days later Jesus appears again when Thomas is present
  - ii. Once again he appears in their midst offering peace and greetings
- c. Jesus Reveals Himself to Thomas (27)
  - i. Jesus tells Thomas to touch his crucifixion wounds
  - ii. Jesus commands him to believe
- d. Thomas wholeheartedly trusts in Christ (28)
  - i. Thomas calls Jesus, "My Lord and My God"
  - ii. Thomas has come to full faith in Jesus

##### 2. Jesus Commends a True Faith (29)

- a. Jesus commends Thomas' Faith
- b. Jesus commends the faith of those who have not seen as a greater faith
- c. Those who believe without seeing are blessed

#### B. The Evidence is Given So That Men will Believe (30-31)

- 1. Jesus did many other signs which are not recorded in John(30)

2. John records these specific signs so that readers will believe in the Son of God
3. John desires that men will believe so that they may have life in His name

This is the purpose of the book and the purpose of this chapter. John is presenting his eyewitness testimony so that you will see the evidence and believe in the Son of God.