

CHAPTER

20

This great chapter recounts the resurrection of our Lord and the events immediately following. When Jesus arose, triumphant from the tomb, He won the victory over the devil and over death. He won it for us also. Praise the Lord! Read the entire chapter.

Verse 1. Early in the morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled from the entrance. The other Gospel writers said that there were three women in the party that came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. This suggests that Jesus' body being placed in this tomb was a temporary arrangement, and that the embalming process had not been completed. It seems, probably, that Mary Magdalene left to tell Peter and John as soon as she saw that the stone was rolled away, and that was the reason John did not report many of the details reported by the other writers.

406. Three women came early to the tomb to _____ the body of Jesus. One of them was Mary of Magdalene, who went immediately the minute she saw the stone rolled away from the entrance, to tell _____ and _____.

Verses 2 and 3. Mary said to Peter and John, "They have taken away my Lord and we know not where they have laid Him," so Peter and John ran quickly to the sepulcher. Mary's words show that she did not expect Jesus to be resurrected. It seemed the last thought in anyone's mind, but we cannot fault them, for they had not understood when He prophesied of His resurrection. If you had been in their place, what would have been your reaction?

407. Mary's words _____ that she did not expect the resurrection of Jesus, but thought His body had been stolen away.

Verses 4 through 7. The two disciples ran together to the tomb, but John outran Peter and arriving first, he stopped at the entrance, stooped and looked in, and saw the linen clothes lying neatly folded. When Peter arrived, he impetuously entered the tomb and noticed the linen clothes, but the cloth that had bound His head was lying by itself. This is the account of an eyewitness, the one who ran the fastest, went in later and described the small details of what they saw within the sepulcher.

408. That John gave the small _____ of all they did and saw, marks this as the account of an _____.

Verses 8 through 10. Then John followed Peter into the tomb and saw what had attracted Peter's attention, the grave cloths neatly folded and piled. This could not be the work of either friend or enemy. If a human had removed the body, the grave clothes would not have been left. Their Lord and Savior is alive. John believed, not because of the prophecies of His resurrection which still were not understood, but because of evidence before His eyes. Peter and John then went to their own home.

409. John _____ in the resurrection, not because of the prophecies found in the scripture, but because of what he saw within the tomb.

Verses 11 through 13. Naturally, Mary followed Peter and John back to the tomb but they had left before she reached there. Mary stood at the entrance weeping. Finally she stooped down and looking in, saw two heavenly messengers, sitting at the head and the foot of the place where Jesus' body had been lying. They asked her, "Why are you weeping?" She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I know not where they have laid Him." Mary's only thought was that she was being denied the privilege of anointing the body of Jesus as she and the other women had planned.

410. Mary stood at the entrance of the tomb weeping. She had no thought and not the slightest hope of Jesus' being resurrected. Her only thought was that she was being denied the privilege of _____ the body of Jesus.

Verses 14 and 15. After saying this, Mary turned around and saw a man standing near by but did not recognize that it was Jesus. The man said, "Why are you weeping, and who are you looking for?" Mary, thinking he was the gardener said, "Sir, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have placed Him and I will take care of Him."

411. Mary did not _____ Jesus, but mistook Him for the gardener. She asked him to tell her where he had _____ the body.

Verse 16. Jesus said in the old familiar way, "Mary." Mary turned and uttered the single word of recognition, "Master." She evidently made a move to embrace Him or at least to touch Him as we see from the following verse.

412. When Jesus spoke her name, Mary immediately _____ Him.

Verse 17. Why Jesus forbade Mary's touching Him, because He had not yet ascended to His Father, raises questions to which no satisfactory answer has been found. Some day we will all know if it is that important to us, but to most of us, it is of small importance. The important thing may be easily overlooked. "Go to My **brethren**," said Jesus, "and tell them I ascend unto My Father and **your** Father; to **My** God, and **your** God." He had first called them servants, then disciples, later friends, and now, **brothers.**"

413. True or False? There are three very important statements in what Jesus said to Mary. First, He referred to His disciples as His brothers; second, to all His followers, "My Father is your Father;" and third, "My God is your God."

Verse 18. Mary went immediately and told the disciples she had seen the Lord and related to them what He had said.

414. Mary went immediately to the disciples and told them she had _____
the Lord and also related the _____ He had said to her.

Verses 19 and 20. It was the first day of the week that our Lord arose and that same evening Jesus came to the house where the disciples were gathered. The doors were closed for fear of the Jews, and Jesus appeared in their midst. This was a miracle, as nothing was said of the doors being opened for Him. In His "resurrection body," Jesus did many things which He did not do in His former body, but still it bore the scars of His crucifixion and his pierced side. How could it be that these were scars and not bleeding wounds? What a wonderful day, when we shall receive bodies like His glorious resurrection body. Then all our questions will be answered, Phil. 3:20, 21. Jesus greeted them with "Peace be unto you," and then showed them His hands and His side. The disciples' fear and awe turned to joy when they realized that this was their Lord, their living Lord.

415. It was on the _____ day of the week that Jesus arose, and that same evening, He appeared to His disciples who were gathered in a room where the doors were _____. He showed them His nail pierced hands and His riven side, and their fear turned to _____.

Verse 21. Again Jesus said, "Peace be unto you; as the Father has sent Me, so send I you." Refer back to John 17:18, where in Jesus' prayer He used almost the same words. He sends us out for the same purpose and with the same promises of peace and power that were given His Son. Hallelujah! What a Savior.

416. Jesus sends His disciples out for the same _____ and with the same promise of _____ with which the Father sent Him.

Verses 22 and 23. Then Jesus breathed on them and said, "Now receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven, if you do not forgive them, they remain unforgiven." These verses seem difficult, but remember there is no one living today upon whom Jesus breathed and to whom He has given this power. The story of Ananias and Sapphira found in Acts 5:1-11 is the only instance recorded in the New Testament which seems to represent the use of this power. McGarvey thought the writing down in the New Testament of the terms of salvation fulfilled these words, but this interpretation falls far short of grasping the full meaning.

417. When Jesus breathed upon His disciples and said, "Now _____
the Holy Spirit. He also bestowed upon them an unusual gift; the
_____ to forgive or retain sin.

Verses 24 and 25. One of the twelve, Thomas, called Didymus meaning "the Twin," was not with them when Jesus came and he would not believe their account, and said, "Unless I see the print of the nails in His hand, and put my fingers into them, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

418. Thomas could not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. He said, "Unless I put my fingers into the _____ in His hand and place my hand in His _____, I will not believe."

Verses 26 through 28. Eight days later, again on the first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together and Thomas was with them. Again the doors were locked, but suddenly Jesus was standing in their midst, and as before, said, "Peace be unto you." Then He turned to Thomas and said, "Put your finger into My hand and put your hand into My side and be not faithless, but believe." Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God."

419. When the disciples met on the following Lord's Day, Thomas was with them. Jesus again suddenly appeared in their midst and turning to Thomas, told him to do exactly what Thomas had _____ he must do in order to _____.

Verses 29. Jesus said to Thomas, "You have believed because you have seen me. Those who have not seen me and still believe are blessed." "Seeing is believing" is the rule of the world, and this policy brings its reward in material affairs. But Jesus' teaching is that in spiritual things, belief without seeing is more rewarding. That belief, of course, must be based upon reliable testimony.

420. Jesus' teaching is that in spiritual matters, _____ without ever having seen, is more _____ than seeing and then believing.

Verses 30 and 31. John said that Jesus did many other wonderful works besides the ones recorded in this book, but these were written that those who read might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and through His name, might receive the gift of eternal life.

421. John said that this book does not contain an account of all the wonderful works performed by Jesus, but the things written here were written that those who _____ may _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

ANSWERS:

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 406. Anoint, Peter, John | 409. Believed |
| 407. Showed | 410. Anointing |
| 408. Details, eye-witness | 411. Recognize, placed |
| 412. Recognized | 417. Receive, power/or right |
| 413. True | 418. Nail prints, side |
| 414. Seen, things | 419. Said, believe |
| 415. First, locked, joy | 420. Believing, rewarding |
| 416. Purpose, power/or peace | 421. Read, believe |