

'THE HAPPIEST LORD'S DAY' (2020 Resurrection Day Series) John 20

April 5th

“Dawning of Belief” (1-10)
(Peter, John & Mary)

April 19th

“O Happy Day Reunion” (19-23)
(The 12 minus Thomas and Jesus)

April 12th

“Good Morning, Faith” (11-18)
(Mary, Angels & Jesus)

April 26th

“Night Light of Blessing” (24-29)
(The 12 with Thomas and Jesus)

It's about The Redeemer, Not the Rabbit!

Although Christians are under no obligation to religiously observe Israel's special days, we at least ought to abstain from cluttering them with extraneous or pagan traditions that will tend to obscure or even spoil the prophetic messages God intends. When people are born again to new life by trusting Jesus, they also have an obligation and desire to adjust their old life and ways to conform with Him and His Word (**Romans 12:1-2**).

With this in mind, believers must be careful to keep the Lord Jesus first in all special days that have anything to do with Him. The *world* (non-Christians and apostate religion who have defected from the Bible) loves to party by taking the holy days of God and making them occasions for debauchery (like Mardi Gras), hypocrisy (like Lent), and heresy (like the word *Easter*/ the pagan fertility goddess – Ishtar). Our obligation is to graciously refrain from the world's mockery and false religion's extra-biblical embellishments. We owe it to our Savior to reverently and biblically honor Christ for what He has done while await His return (**Colossians 3:15-17**).

RESURRECTION DAY CHRONOLOGY

The Women Disciples Come to the Tomb

“Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.” **Luke 24:1-2**

“Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.” **Matthew 28:1**

“Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “*Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?*” **Mark 16:2-3**

A Pre-Dawn Earthquake Shakes the Region

“And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.” (Also *Matthew 27:52-53*) **Matthew 28:2-4**

Mary Magdalene Runs Ahead of the Group to the Tomb

“Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “*They have taken away the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him*” **John 20:1-2**

The Rest of the Women Arrive at the Tomb

“But the angel answered and said to the women, “*Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*” **Matthew 28:5-6**

“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away - for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “*Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.*” **Mark 16:4-6**

“Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, “*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”*” **Luke 24:3**

The Angels Send the Women to Tell the Other Disciples

“And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.” **Matthew 28:7**

“But go and tell His disciples - and Peter - that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” **Mark 16:7-8**

“And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb...”

Luke 24:8-9a

Peter, John and Mary Return to the Tomb

“Peter, therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away to their own homes.” **John 20:3-10**

“But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then 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 have laid Him.”* Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, *“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”* She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, *“Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”* Jesus said to her, *“Mary!”* She turned and said to Him, *“Rabboni!”* (which is to say Teacher). Jesus said to her, *“Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father, and to My God and your God.’”* Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.” **John 20:11-18**

The Lord Appears to the Other Women

“And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, *“Rejoice!”* So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, *“Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”* **Matthew 28:9-10**

The Women Try to Convince the Disciples

“...and they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.” **Luke 24:9-12**

The Lord Appears to Peter

“...the Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to Simon!” (Also 1 Corinthians 15:5)

Luke 24:34

The Lord Appears to the Disciples Going to Emmaus

“Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.” **Luke 24:13-15**

The Lord Appears to the 12 (minus Thomas)

“Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” **John 20:19-23**

The Lord Appears to the 12 (Thomas present)

“Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. **John 20:24-31**

‘Dispelling ‘Lord’s Day’ Darkness’
(CSI / Crypt Scene Investigation – The Garden Tomb)
John 20:1-10



Synopsis: It had been the darkest Passover weekend ever! Jesus, the promised Messiah and Savior, had been arrested unjustly, brutally beaten, condemned by both the leaders of Israel and Rome, and crucified three days before. Jesus, the ultimate, holy Lamb of God, had been sacrificed and buried in a nearby garden tomb. His disciples mourned in hiding, knowing not what they would do, now that He Whom they believed would reign as King was dead and buried. The Passover weekend always concluded Sunday morning when the high priest waved a sprig of barley wheat toward heaven, dedicating the *first fruits* of the spring harvest (*and the harvest to come in the fall*) to the LORD. The sacrifice Passover Lamb, the week-long feast of *Unleavened Bread* which began the next day and the *First Fruits* dedication on the third day, were Old Testament feasts picturing the work Messiah would perform at His coming.

- The Lamb’s blood = the wages of sin paid in full for all those who sincerely repent and believe;
- Burial in the tomb of Jesus’ body = removal forever of all sin and old nature of true converts to Christ. Lastly, but not at all least,
- The uprooting of the first barley sprig and lifting up of it toward heaven by the high priest = symbolic of God’s resurrection of Jesus and the new life given by grace to all who believe, love and follow the risen Savior.

In their disappointment and despair, the followers of Jesus had not made the connection that that special Sunday morning *First Fruits* ceremony was literally being fulfilled by Jesus in His raising from the dead. This glorious first Lord’s Day started in the dark and just like a typical day, got brighter with enlightenment throughout the day...

Pre-Dawn Doubt

(Investigating evidence without spiritual illumination)

“Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” **20:1-2**

Discussion Questions:

Jesus’ followers’ failure to remember His promise to raise from the dead in three days, darkened their minds and hearts with sadness and gloom. It is still a problem for Christians to forget (or not know in the first place) His promises when troubles slip their heart into disappointment instead of hope.

- Our world today is in a very dark period of history – what promises can you remember & share that give you hope for the future?
- How do you find biblical promises you don’t know by heart?
- Recall a time when you wrongly concluded something due to omitting God’s word and promises about it.
- How should Mary have reacted differently and better than she did?
- Talk about the risk of making impulsive (and spreading to others) conclusions based on quick, unclear observation.
- What’s the good example of Peter & John about bad news?

Day-Break Evidence
(Evaluating clues in light of objective information)

“Peter therefore went out and the other disciple and were going to the tomb. So, they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he stooping down and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded together in a place by itself. **20:3-7**

Discussion Questions:

- How much evidence did you need to believe that Jesus died, was buried and arose from the dead?
- How does studying the evidence help activate faith in the heart?
- Discuss **Hebrews 11:1, 6** relative to saving faith.

Son-Rise Understanding
(Believing the facts with biblical enlightenment)

“Then **the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in** also; and **he saw and believed**. For as yet, they did not know **the Scripture**, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.” **20:8-10**

Discussion Questions:

- Why do some people, like Peter, take longer to believe, even if they have the same evidence?
- What did John do that enabled him to believe much more quickly than Peter?
- Which one is more like you were when considering fully believing the gospel?
- Why do you think that John just went home and didn't try to convince either Peter or Mary (whom they just leave there alone)?
- If John truly believed, who was back at his house that he wanted to hurry back and tell the good news?
- If Peter is still doubtful and Mary is still confused, God will have to enlighten them, but somebody at John's house is ready to believe.
- Talk about how to know who is ready to believe that we should focus witness on.