



Key Verse: *After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples... – John 21:1 ESV*

- **He was seen – John 20**

*Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and **he was raised from the dead** on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. **He was seen** by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, **he was seen** by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. **Then he was seen** by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, **I also saw him.** – 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NLT*

And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. – 1 Corinthians 15:14 NLT

And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. – 1 Corinthians 15:17 NLT

*But in fact, **Christ has been raised from the dead.** He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. – 1 Corinthians 15:20 NLT*

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. – John 12:24 NLT

- Jesus made a number of appearances
- But John only mentions four eyewitnesses by name
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Simon Peter
 - Thomas

- Nathanael
- Mary Magdalene
 - She had once been demon-possessed, but Jesus healed her (Luke 8:1-2)
 - She came to the tomb early Sunday morning – before dawn
 - The Sabbath has ended (Luke 23:54-56)
 - Now it was time to anoint the body of Jesus
 - Mary had work to do
 - But she was in for a surprise

...the stone had been taken away from the tomb. – John 20:1 ESV

- Jesus was dead, but now His body is missing
- She runs to get Peter and John to help

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” – John 20:2 ESV

- The three of them return, but Peter and John eventually leave
- Mary is left alone, weeping outside the tomb
- She encounters the resurrected Jesus, but does not recognize Him
- He asks her, “Whom are you seeking?” (vs 15)
- She responds:

“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” – John 20:15

- She had woken up that Sunday with one thing on her mind: Anointing the body of Jesus
- The empty tomb had not altered her expectation
- He was risen but she was still crestfallen
- But Jesus reveals Himself to her
 - His resurrection was not the end of the story
 - There was another step in the process

“I am ascending to my Father...” – vs 17

- Jesus had told them this time would come

“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and...it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.” – John 16:5, 7 NLT

- At her sighting of Jesus, her sorrow turned to rejoicing
- Her whole perspective changed

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb – vs 11

Mary...went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord” – vs 18

- Mary was **energized**, but not yet **empowered**
- Her demeanor had changed
- She had gone from **despairing** to **declaring**
- She had experienced the **joy** of the resurrection, but not its **power**
- She was not yet changed **within**

- Simon Peter

He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. – John 20:6-7 ESV

- He didn't understand
 - Peter doesn't grasp the significance of what he sees
 - The tomb is empty, and the body is gone
 - But he can't connect the dots
 - Because he lacks the ability

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” – John 14:26 ESV

- So, he goes home
 - The empty tomb didn't improve Peter's outlook
 - He didn't begin a search for the body
 - He simply returned home
- He gets a glimpse of Jesus
 - Jesus appears to the disciples that very night
 - They are hiding behind locked doors out of fear of the Sanhedrin
 - But they were surprised and glad to see Jesus
 - They saw the resurrected Jesus with their own eyes
 - Peter and his companions were overjoyed
 - But Jesus let them know that His resurrection wasn't about **a reunion**, it was about **a mission**
 - They had important “work” to do
- The breath of new life
 - ...he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. – vs 22*
 - They have been reunited with Jesus
 - But they are not yet **united to Jesus**

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper...the Spirit of truth...You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” – John 14:16-17 ESV

*“Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.**” – John 14:19-20 ESV*

“...we will come to him and make our home with him.” – John 14:23 ESV

- Jesus breathed on them the breath of new life
*...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed** into his nostrils **the breath of life**, and the man became a living creature. – Genesis 2:7 ESV*

- Jesus was bestowing upon them resurrection **life**
- But they still lacked resurrection **power**

*“But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8 ESV*

- A week later they would be back in hiding

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked... – John 20:26 ESV

- But Jesus continued to reveal Himself to them

- Sighting by the Sea

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. – John 21:1 ESV

- There are seven disciples present
 - Simon Peter – the denier
 - Thomas – the doubter
 - Nathanael – the disparager
 - James and John – the demanders
 - And two other unnamed disciples (one was probably Andrew, Peter’s brother)
- Peter has decided to return to fishing
 - The other men have joined him
 - But they caught nothing
 - Peter’s sightings of Jesus have changed nothing
 - He has simply gone back to work – unsuccessfully

- They were fishing, but were not yet fishers of men
- Then a “stranger” gives them some strange advice
“Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” – vs 6

- Immediately, they catch more fish than they can pull in
- And Peter jumps out of the boat
- What explains his reaction?
 - This is the third time he has seen Jesus
 - What was different? **The miracle**

*...now they were not able to haul it in, **because of the quantity of fish** – vs 6*

- This was the Jesus Peter had grown accustomed to
- The miracle restored his hopes
- Their dreams of a revived Kingdom were rekindled

*So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “**Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?**” – Acts 1:6 NLT*

- Peter was still looking for an earthly kingdom
- He was interested in utilizing Jesus’ power
- But he did not possess that power
- And Jesus would expose Peter’s inadequacy

- Do you love me?
 - Three times Jesus asks Peter this question
 - Three times Peter affirms his love
 - And three times Jesus commands Peter to care for His sheep
 - This exchange leaves Peter grieved
- Follow me
 - This was an impossible command
“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” – Matthew 16:24 NLT
 - The resurrected **life** requires resurrection **power**
 - The empty tomb means nothing if we live lives that are devoid of the Spirit’s power
 - But we have been given that power
The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. – Romans 8:11 NLT
 - Jesus died so that we might live

- He ascended so the Spirit might descend
- The tomb is empty so that we might be Spirit-filled

For Further Discussion

- Why is it hypocritical to make much of the empty tomb, while living a life that is devoid of the Spirit's power?
- Mary and Peter were glad to have Jesus back, but what would have happened had he stayed?
- Easter is when we say, "He is risen!" But this year, why not add, "I am **filled**"?

Sunday Timeline

- An earthquake takes place (Matthew 28:2-4)
- The angel(s) rolls away the stone and the guards run for their lives
- While it was still dark, a group of women head to the tomb
- Mary Magdalene arrives first and, finding the tomb open and empty, she runs to inform Peter and John (John 20:1)
- The other women complete their two-mile walk from Bethany to the grave site, arriving a little after sunrise (Mark 16:2)
- An angel appears to them and gives them an urgent message to pass on to the disciples (Matthew 28:5; Mark 16:5)
- Another party of women arrive at the tomb some time later and see "two young men" dressed in white. They receive words of comfort and instruction (Luke 24:4)
- About 6:30 am, Peter and John arrive at the tomb, with John arriving first (John 20:3-10)
- Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb after Peter and John have left, and she encounters the two angels (John 20:11-13)
- Meanwhile the other women reported their news to the other disciples (Luke 24:10)
- About 7:00 am, Jesus reveals Himself to Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-18; Mark 16:9)
- A little later, He appears to a group of women returning to the grave site. He sends them with a message for the disciples, telling them to meet Him in Galilee (Matthew 28:9)
- About 4:00 pm, He appears to Simon Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- He also appears to Cleopas and his companion as they made their way to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-16)
- These two return to Jerusalem and report what they saw and heard to the disciples (Luke 24:33-35)
- Some time around 8:00 pm, He appears to ten of the disciples (Thomas is missing) and a group of others as they hide behind locked doors (Luke 24:36-43; Mark 16:14; John 20:19-25)
- The next Sunday night he appears to the disciples and, this time, Thomas is with them (John 20:26-31)
- He later appears to seven of the disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-25)
- He appears to about 500 disciples on a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18)
- He appears to the disciples again, this time back in Jerusalem, and commands them to stay there until the coming of the Holy Spirit
- He makes His final appearance to the disciples on the Mount of Olives (Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53)
- The angels appear to the disciples as they watch Jesus ascend. They assure them of His return and then the disciples return to Jerusalem (Acts 1:9-12)