

Gospel of John
Chapter 20

Memory Verse: **John 15:8**

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

John 20 (ESV)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said

to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw *Jesus* standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

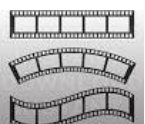
¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Commentary note on John 20:23: "This verse does not give the authority for Christians to forgive sins. Jesus was saying that the believer can boldly declare the certainty of a sinner's forgiveness by the Father because of the work of His Son if that sinner has repented and believed in the gospel. The believer, with certainty, can also tell those who do not respond to the message of God's forgiveness through faith in Christ that their sins, as a result, are not forgiven" - MacArthur Bible Commentary

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



Scene it

1. **Summary of Events:** Write down what happened in each scene of this chapter and how it relates to the theme of the book.

| Scene | Passage | Location | Characters | What Happened? |
|-------|---------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| 50 | John 20:1-10 | | | |
| 51 | John 20:11-18 | | | |
| 52 | John 20:19-25 | | | |
| 53 | John 20:26-31 | | | |

2. It is important to notice recurring themes throughout a literary work. This is not different for Biblical narratives. The author is developing themes and motifs throughout this gospel. What information is revealed about the *signs* which Jesus performed and about *belief*?

Believe (any form of the word):

3. Do you learn anything about **God the Father** or the **Holy Spirit** in John 20? Write it below.

Father

Spirit

4. What do you observe about our Lord, **Jesus Christ**?

a. What do you learn about His *character*?

b. How does he interact with *people*?

c. How does Jesus conduct *ministry*?

5. Pray: As you just took time to observe your Lord, now take time to praise God for the person and work of Jesus Christ. Be sure thank God that Christ's perfect life has been credited to your account as if you lived it.
6. Each time Jesus greets them in John 20, he uses the same phrase, "Peace be with you". Do you remember Jesus talking about peace in previous chapters? What did he say about peace?

John 14:27

John 16:33

Think about the idea of Peace during the Roman rule. Here is what D.A. Carson wrote,

The *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace) was won and maintained by a brutal sword; not a few Jews thought the messianic peace would have to be secured by a still mightier sword. Instead, it was secured by an innocent man who suffered and died at the hands of the Romans, of the Jews, and all of us" That peace, in Jesus' teaching is to be as characteristic of the dawning kingdom as the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus bequeaths both (John 14:26-27).

-----Commentary: The Gospel According to John

7. What did this peace accomplish according to Romans 5:1 and Ephesians 2:14-17? Remember that Justification means, "declared or made righteous in the sight of God".

8. How is Christ's ministry of peace to affect the life of a New Testament believer?

Colossians 3:15

Hebrews 12:14

1 Peter 3:9-11

Philippians 4:6-7

Romans 14:16-19



GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

9. What do you learn about being a disciple in John 20?

10. Do you learn anything from the example of Mary, Peter, John or even Thomas?

Mary Magdalene:

Simon Peter:

John (the disciple whom Jesus loved):

Thomas:

11. Place a check in the circle if you **said** the memory verses below:

- John 20:30-31
- John 3:35-36
- John 6:35
- John 8:24

Write from Memory the verses below:

John 13:34-35

John 15:4-8



12. Create an artistic expression of this chapter (ie. prayer, poem, picture, acrostic, etc.).