

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> 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.” <sup>14</sup> Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> 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.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

#### What is Mary's original assumption based on what she is seeing?

- That Jesus' body has been stolen (vs 2). Why else would the stone, which was left under Roman supervision, be moved?

#### What is the reaction to Mary's news?

- Panic! Peter and John run to the tomb to check out the situation for themselves.

#### What do they see upon arrival?

- John doesn't go in (for reasons of cleanliness?), so he only sees the linen clothes.
- Peter charges into the tomb, so he also sees the facecloth neatly folded.
  - Which grave robbers presumably wouldn't do.

#### What is John's reaction with this new information?

- Belief, based on sight
  - But not fully informed belief (vs 9).
  - Jesus will more fully instruct them about what scripture had to say about His resurrection shortly (Lk. 24:45).

#### What is Mary's current status?

- Still grieving in the belief that Jesus' body has been taken.
  - She seems to have returned after Peter and John left.

#### Might there be any possible significance to the two angels and their positions?

- Reminiscent of the cherubim on the mercy seat (Exod. 25:18-22)
  - *"I will come and meet with you there..."*

#### Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first?

- Currently sobbing, so tears may be blurring vision?
- Probably hasn't slept much/at all, so her senses are dulled?
- Sun may be rising behind Jesus? Or daybreak hasn't happened yet?

#### How does she eventually recognize Him?

- Her first recognition of Him is the result of Him calling her name.
- Cf 10:4b, 14 – *"The sheep follow Him because they know his voice."*

#### What can we assume is happening when Jesus says, "Do not cling to Me?" Why would He say this?

- She has obviously either embraced Him or grasped His hands or feet.
- But His appearance here is temporary and there is work to do.

#### Why does He say "My Father and your Father," "My God and your God"?

- To express the mutual relationship for the Father, the Son and believers.
- By Jesus' sacrifice, we have all been adopted into a relationship with the Father (Eph. 1:5).

#### What does Mary do as a result of this command?

- She immediately obeys! (cf 14:15)
- Jesus' command foreshadows the mission He is about to give the disciples.

<sup>19</sup> 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." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> 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.

**What is the significance of the circumstances here – locked doors, Jesus' appearance?**

- Jesus' body is missing and the Jews are most likely looking for His disciples to remove the remainder of Jesus' followers."
  - Notice how many events in John are affected by "fear of the Jews."
- Jesus appears among them in spite of the locked doors.
  - Lk 24:37 – they believed He was a ghost
  - Thus, Jesus reassures them by showing His hands and side.
    - John wants to be clear: this is no apparition!

**What is the significance of "He breathed on them"? Is this different from the Holy Spirit's arrival in Acts 2?**

- "The word for "breathe" is the same word used in the Septuagint in Gen 2:7 to describe God giving Adam the breath of life.
  - They are among the first of a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).
- This seems to be limited to a few, but foreshadows the "pouring out" on the whole church at Pentecost.

**What authority were they granted? Are there limits to this authority?**

- Forgiveness, granted at the direction of the Holy Spirit (16:8).
  - This forgiveness is not left completely to the whims of the disciples: it is the means by which they will "judge with righteous judgement" – by the Spirit of Truth, who will either convict or reconcile men based on their reaction to the gospel.
    - It is by this Spirit that Peter has the authority to say, "*Repent and be baptized... for the forgiveness of sins*"

**Was Thomas justified in his doubt? What**

- Thomas certainly gets a bad rap, but the moment he comes into contact with Jesus, he believes.
  - 1 Jn. 4:1 - Thomas has "tested the spirits to determine if they are from God."
  - Even though he is presented with something that doesn't fit with his perception, he believes based on the overwhelming evidence right in front of his face.
    - Which is something the Jews had refused to do!

**How do Jesus' last words to Thomas connect with John's exhortation in the following verses?**

- John writes this gospel to those who have "not seen" Jesus, presenting them with credible evidence to support his teaching.
  - Now, they must "test" his words against what they already know to verify if they are "words of eternal life" (6:68).