

Word on Wednesday Bible Study

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THE EFFECTS OF THE RESURRECTION

John 20:1-2, 11-18

Introduction: The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulcher on the Morning of the Resurrection is a painting by **Eugène Burnand** based on John 20:1-10. It is Burnand's best-known work and shows the emotion and intensity of Peter and John. The painting depicts the disciples running toward the empty tomb. The younger disciple, John, with his hands clasped together, looks hopeful. The older disciple Peter, wide-eyed and with his hand over his heart, looks as if he is in shock. **Although both are bewildered and their faith is in doubt, they are at least running in the right direction to seek answers.**

For the **believer**, when our faith is being tested and we are seeking answers, and for the **unbeliever**, when life is full of uncertainty and he or she is seeking answers, both need to run toward Jesus. **His death and resurrection assure us that no matter what problems we are facing in life, we can overcome anything because of the One who overcame sin and death by rising from the grave.**

I. EVIDENCE OF AN _____ TOMB (20:1-2).

"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. 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.'"

- Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome (Mark 20:1) went to Jesus's tomb early on Sunday morning to anoint His body.
- However, when the women arrived, they found the stone removed from the entrance of the tomb and Jesus' body missing.
- Jesus shared multiple times with His disciples that He would rise from the dead (Matt. 20:17-19; Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:32-34; Luke 9:21-22) and implied His resurrection in the Gospel of John (John 2:19, 10:17-18).
- Despite this, the disciples still did not understand what He meant.

"But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said." - Luke 18:34

- An empty tomb was evidence for Mary Magdalene, the other women, the disciples, and for us that Jesus has risen from the dead!

II. _____ BY THE RESURRECTION (20:11-16)

The Angels: **"Woman, why are you weeping?"** Mary: **"They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."**

- Who are “they”? Who is the anonymous “they” we refer to when we have no explanation for a situation, or when we believe something with little or no evidence, and we blame or point to “they”?
- Jesus said that to help someone “listen,” two or three witnesses should be called to establish a fact (Matt. 18:15-16).
 1. There were Jesus’ predictions of rising from the dead.
 2. There was an empty tomb.
 3. Two angels sat where Jesus’ body had been.

*Jesus said to her, “**Mary.**” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). – vs. 16*

- It often takes Jesus’s voice to pass through our feelings to our faith, stop us from looking for “they,” and help us listen to Him.
- His voice can turn our sorrow into joy!

III. _____ **BY THE RESURRECTION**

*Mary Magdalene **went and announced** to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”--and that he had said these things to her. Vs. 18*

- The same enthusiasm that Mary had in sharing the Good News is the same enthusiasm that we should have when we share the Gospel.
- The excitement of Jesus’s resurrection must start with His disciples before it can be shared with the world.
- If the disciples were not enthused, why should the world be excited?
- **Have you lost your enthusiasm for your salvation and the excitement of sharing the Gospel?**
- It’s Jesus’ death and resurrection that is the foundation of the faith and the reason we have joy that no one can take away.

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. – John 16:22

CONCLUSION

- Doubt is a normal part of faith and can lead to growth
- Disciples initially doubted the resurrection.
- Jesus revealed Himself to strengthen their faith.
- Believers are encouraged to draw near to God in times of doubt.