

“I Have Seen the Lord!”

John 20:1-29

In John 20, the apostle John shares his excitement about the Resurrection as proof that Jesus is not like any other man. Not only does the empty tomb provide evidence of the Resurrection, but so does Jesus' appearances to several of his followers. As John explains, *the tomb was opened, not to let Jesus out, but to let the disciples and the world in to see the evidence of the Resurrection.*

The empty tomb (1-10)

On Sunday, Mary Magdalene and several women come to the tomb only to discover the stone door had been removed (1).

Mary assumed someone had taken the body, and ran to tell Peter and John (2).

While John outraces Peter to the tomb (3-4), he stops in the doorway and sees the evidence that Jesus is gone (5).

Peter enters the tomb and sees the burial clothes are still there, but the body is gone (6-7).

John enters the tomb, examines the evidence, and believes (8).

It would be later that the disciples would understand the prophetic Scriptures that the Resurrection fulfilled (9).

Peter and John headed back to Jerusalem (10).

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (11-18)

Mary Magdalene remained behind and wept at the entrance to the tomb (11).

As she looked inside the tomb, she saw two angelic beings sitting where the body of Jesus had been previously (12).

Mary explains to the angels that she is heartbroken because she believes someone came and took the body (13).

Jesus' Post-Resurrection Appearances

Easter morning

- To Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18)
- To other women (Matthew 28:9-10)
- To Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)

Easter afternoon

- To two disciples on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24:13-22)

Easter evening

- To about 12 disciples excluding Thomas (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23)

The following Sunday

- To 11 disciples including Thomas (John 20:26-28)

The following 32 days

- To seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-23)
- To 500 people including the Eleven at a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 15:6)
- To his half-brother James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- To his disciples in Jerusalem (Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:7)
- To his disciples on Mount Olivet (Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:5-53; Acts 1:9-12)

Mary backs out of the tomb, turns and sees someone she supposes is the gardener (14-15). She doesn't recognize that the person is Jesus.

Mary recognizes Jesus when he speaks her name (16).

Jesus told Mary not to cling to him as though she was afraid she would lose him again (17). He wanted her to tell his disciples that he was alive and that he was going to ascend to his Father.

Mary announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" (18).

Jesus appears to the disciples (19-23)

That evening, the disciples were gathered in a locked room out of fear of the Jewish leaders (19). Jesus appeared in their midst miraculously and pronounced a benediction of peace.

Jesus showed them his hands and his side in order to convince them that it really was him and not a phantom (20).

Jesus commissioned them for a new mission just as his Father had sent him on a mission (21).

Jesus provided the disciples with a temporary infusion of the Holy Spirit (22).

Jesus explained that the Great Commission not only requires supernatural spiritual power, but it also involves forgiveness of sins (23).

Jesus appears to Thomas (24-29)

Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared to the disciples (24). In spite of their verbal testimony, he refused to believe unless he saw and touched physical evidence (25).

The following Sunday, Thomas was present when Jesus appeared again (26). Jesus invited Thomas to satisfy himself that he really was the crucified and resurrected Jesus (27).

The sight of Jesus convinced Thomas (28). He uttered one of the most profound declarations of saving faith in Scripture, "My Lord and my God."

While Thomas saw Jesus and was convinced, Jesus said that those who believe by faith will receive his blessing (29).

Principles to Practice

Examine the evidence.

Believe the message.

Experience true peace.

Tell the story.