

John 20

John 20.1-5

V1 – When does this chapter begin? On the following Sunday morning

-According to Guy N. Woods, this verse indicates that she was going in the direction of the tomb (compare with *Mark 16.2* – the sun had already risen)

-**Who went to the tomb?** Mary Magdalene

V2 – Whom did Mary Magdalene tell about the empty tomb? Peter and John

V3 – What did Peter and John do? Started toward the tomb

V4 – Which one outran the other? John

V5 – What did John do when he got to the tomb? Looked in

-Notice again: the linen wrappings (plural) and the refutation of the Shroud of Turin

John 20.6-10

-Look up a picture of the tomb in any standard Bible dictionary or encyclopedia or Internet reference site

V6 – What did Peter do when he got to the tomb? Also looked and then went into the tomb

V7 – Notice: the face-cloth (again not like the Shroud of Turin)

-**What happened to the face-cloth?** Neatly rolled up

-In other words, no evidence of a stolen body or a forced entrance

V8 – John also went into the tomb

V9 – Did they understand about the resurrection from the dead? Yes, but they had not understood it up to this point

V10 – They went home

John 20.11-15

-One of the most moving scenes in the Bible

Notice: The first appearance of Jesus after his resurrection was not to one of the great apostles, but to Mary Magdalene

V11 – Why was Mary standing there weeping? V2 – She thought someone had stolen the body of Jesus

-We hate to see a grave desecrated

-Jews and Christians put the emphasis on not abusing a dead body

-**Why did she stoop?** There was a low opening to the tomb

-**Why look in (again)?** Maybe she had missed the body the first time (just checking herself)

V 12 – Notice in the New American Standard Bible (1995): John shifted to the present tense

-**Why didn't she show any fear of the angels?** A moment of deep emotion

V 13 – The angels asked her why she was weeping

-**Her answer?** She wanted to know where the body of Jesus was

V 14 – The angels did not answer her

-**Why did she not recognize Jesus?** How good is our vision when we are really crying? Many tears, weeping, etc. = very poor vision

-Also, after his resurrection he could have had a somewhat different appearance

V 15 – She was a determined woman!

-She volunteered to take the body away

-**Her conclusion concerning what happened to the body?** The gardener took it away

-Notice emphasis on "*him*" in v 15 – all her thoughts were centered on Jesus

-What a good woman she was, one of the most devoted disciples Jesus had

V 16 – The use of her name told her who was speaking

-**Isn't it strange about the human voice?** Everyone's voice is different ("Hello" on the telephone, and we usually know who it is)

-**Read John 10.3** – The sheep know the voice of the master

-Remember the old RCA classical records: dog and phonograph: "*His master's voice*"

-*"Rabboni"* – highest title for a teacher

V 17 – Many views on this verse

-Guy N Woods:

1. His wounds had not yet healed (not the resurrection body)

2. He had not made the proper sacrifice – would be rendered unclean according to the Old Law (but according to *Matt. 28.9* they took hold of his feet and worshipped him)

-also, the Old Law died on the cross with Jesus

3. He was urging her to hurry up and tell the other disciples – use haste – don't waste time embracing me... - seems to be the best explanation

-Brother Woods: He is saying, "I am really here – you don't need to keep clinging to me to prove that I am really here...."

V 18 – Mary obeyed and told the other disciples these things

-*Mark 16.11, 14* – They didn't believe her at first

John 20.19-23

V 19 – **Day and time?** Sunday evening

-**Why were they meeting behind closed doors?** They were afraid of the Jews

-See v 26 – shows that the body of Jesus could materialize behind closed doors

-*"Fear of the Jews"* – they had just killed Jesus three days earlier, so this was a justifiable fear

V 20 – Christianity is a reasonable, logical faith

- "Seeing is believing" – he showed them his hands and his side

- **Read John 16.20-22** – Prophecy that they would rejoice after the crucifixion and the resurrection

V 21 – He repeats the greeting – must have been quite a stir when he appeared!

- **What was their commission?** To take the truth to the world, as he had done

V 22 – Receiving the Holy Spirit meant that they would now have the Comforter

- He would call these things to their memory (remember *John 14, 15, 16*)

V 23 – Note: same words as given to Peter in *Matt. 16.19* – Peter was not elevated above the other apostles

John 20.24-29

V 24 – Thomas was absent from that first Sunday night meeting

- **Are we told why he was not there?** No

V 25 – **What were the other apostles telling him during the week?** About seeing Jesus

- **Thomas' reply?** I must see the nail prints, feel them, and feel his side, to believe

- Thomas demanded proof – Christianity was not a religion of superstition

V 26 – "Eight days" = one week later (as many cultures count time, starting with the current day)

- The French regularly refer to a week as having eight days (French for "today: *aujourd'hui*, meaning: "to the day of the eights")

- They assembled on Sunday again (on Roman time also)

V 27 – **Describe the words and actions of Jesus:** Ready to present evidence and proof

V 28 - **Did Thomas in fact investigate the wounds?** No

- **Why not?** He was too overwhelmed by the evidence and by the presence of Jesus

- The words of Thomas: first in the Bible to address Jesus as God

V 29 – We are included in v 29

John 20.30-31

V 30 – John did not write all that he knew about the life of Christ

V 31 – His purpose to cause people to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God

- It is an evangelistic book in the New Testament

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