

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 20:

vs. 1- 9

It is suggested that Mary of Magdala was to meet the other women there at the tomb, to anoint the body. This would explain her speaking of "we" don't know where they have put Him.

Peter and the other disciple (John) both run for the tomb. They find the strips of cloth lying neatly, suggesting that they were slowly and deliberately laid aside by one who no longer had any use for them. Peter goes in first and sees that cloth which had been around Jesus' head [notice: Jesus was buried in strips of cloth and a cloth over about His head. This description nullifies the Shroud of Turin as being the burial cloth which was placed over the body of Jesus]. These two believed that Jesus was no longer there but, they did not understand how it was fulfillment of prophecy and had to take place.

vs. 10-18

Mary stays behind after Peter and John leave. She sees two angels whereas Matthew & Mark record just 1 angel. Not having been eyewitnesses and having learned of this second hand, they might not have been made aware that there were 2, for only 1 spoke. Still, there is no question concerning the resurrection itself.

She responds to them by making them aware of her concern about the body of Jesus. Jesus appears, but she fails to recognize Him at first. When He calls her by name, she realizes who He is. Jesus instructs her not to cling to Him, but instead go and spread the news of His resurrection, which she did.

vs. 19-23

That same evening Jesus appears to His disciples. They had gathered in fear and had bolted the doors. By now, they were well aware that the body of Jesus was no longer in the tomb and may have been concerned with the action of the religious leaders.

Jesus appears to them and shows them His hands and side, proving that He is not a spirit but is their Lord in body. Jesus calms them and then tells them that just as the Father has sent Him (when He came into the world and has now accomplished God's will), so He is now sending them with the Holy Spirit and the message of the forgiveness of sins to all who will accept their message and be obedient to it.

vs. 24-31

Thomas is not convinced that the actual body of Jesus was there in the room with the disciples. He was not saying that he did not believe that the body was gone from the tomb, however. Jesus appears to the disciples a week later and Thomas is with them. Thomas, having seen for himself, though it is never recorded him actually having touched the wounds of Jesus, now believes and confesses Jesus as his Lord. Jesus recognizes Thomas' confession but praises those who have faith yet don't depend on their physical senses as a basis for their faith.

John states that many other miracles had been done by Jesus that were not recorded. He explains that the reason these had been recorded, was for the purpose of bringing people to believe that Jesus is the anointed one of God, the Son of God, and that by believing they would come to have life as they responded to their belief.

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 21:

vs. 1-14

This chapter begins with the account of Jesus appearing to seven of the disciples at one time. Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two who are left unnamed were those that composed the group. Back in the area of Galilee, where Jesus had told them to go, for He would meet them there, Peter talks the others into going fishing one evening, with him.

They had spent the whole night and had not caught anything when a stranger on the shore suggests for them to try the other side of the boat. Upon doing so, they take in such a catch that they had problems handling it. Peter now realizes that the stranger on the shore is no stranger at all, it is Jesus. Peter gathers his cloak and swims to shore. Peter and the other disciples (who rowed the boat in with the catch) appear to arrive about the same time and find breakfast already prepared. The miracle was in the number of the fish, 153, and the fact that there had not been any damage to the net. Jesus invites them to come and share the meal with Him.

This third time, that John refers to, would have to mean the 3rd time that Jesus had appeared to the group of disciples, for John has already listed more than two other appearances by Jesus.

vs. 15-25

After their meal, Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him more than anyone else. Peter responds saying that he does (although they use different terms and Peter's term is not as intense and dedicated love). Jesus instructs Peter to feed His lambs. This would take patience and loving care by Peter, to care for the followers who are new to Jesus. Jesus again questions Peter's love and Peter again assures Jesus of his love, still using his own term for love. Jesus instructs him to feed His sheep. Jesus asks Peter the third time, this time using the same term that Peter had in his first 2 replies. Peter is hurt as he is reminded of his denials and confesses his love for Jesus (notice that Peter has lost his sense of assuredness and confidence in himself compared to the time when he stated, without hesitation, that he would never leave his lord). Jesus instructs Peter once again to feed His sheep and tells him the type of death he would die, referring to imprisonment and being led to die.

Peter becomes concerned about John and wonders what will happen to him. Jesus replies that, that is no concern of Peter's.

The statement that John made concerning many other miraculous signs in 20:30, is given further light by him, as he states that if they were all recorded, the world would not be able to contain the volumes.

With what we do know of Jesus' life & teachings, His love and deity shines through. How much more, would that be true, if we were to know all the other things that He did because of compassion and to demonstrate that He had come to do the will of God!!

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 20:

1. When did Mary of Magdala discover that the stone had been removed?
2. What did she tell Peter and the other disciple?
3. When Peter & the other disciple saw that the body was gone, what did they still not understand?
4. Who appeared at the tomb and talked to Mary?
5. What did Jesus instruct Mary to do?
6. What was Mary's response?
7. When did Jesus appear to His disciples next?
8. What did He show them, to prove that it was He?
9. What did Jesus tell His disciples on this occasion? (Summarize)
10. What did Thomas say, he had to see, before he believed?
11. What did Jesus say about believers, after Thomas confessed Jesus as Lord?
12. For what reason were these miraculuous signs recorded?

BONUS:

1. What is the importance of the resurrection of Jesus?
2. What is the importance of His appearances after His resurrection?
3. Did John accomplish what he set out to do, according to verse 31?

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 21:

1. Where did Jesus appear again to His disciples?
2. Who went out at night to fish?
3. What did Jesus tell them to do, after being told they had not caught any fish, all night?
4. What happened next and how did Peter respond?
5. How many fish had they caught and what had not happened?
6. After Jesus invited them to come and have breakfast, what did He do?
7. What three questions does Jesus ask of Peter?
8. What were Peter's replies?
9. How did Jesus respond to each answer?
10. What does the writer suppose the whole world could not contain?

BONUS:

1. What was the purpose, do you believe, for the incident with the fishes? How does that help Christians today?
2. Why do you think that Jesus questioned Peter 3 times about his love for Him (Jesus)? Does this teach you anything?
3. What was the purpose of all the miracles in the book?