

John 20: The Risen Lord

Lesson Theme: Witnesses to the Resurrection of Christ

John 11:25-27—

Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

John 20:1-18: The Woman Sees

1. Mary’s visit to the tomb early, “while it was still dark,” demonstrates her love and loyalty to Jesus, like Jesus’ love and loyalty to the Father. (John 20:1a)

Mark 1:35—

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

2. Once Mary saw the stone had been taken away from the tomb, she ran to John and Peter, the leaders among Jesus’ disciples, to tell them what happened. God used Mary’s love and loyalty to Christ as a witness to tell the other disciples what was happening that early Sunday morning. (John 20:1b-2)

3. The handkerchief that had been around Jesus’ head, folded together in a place by itself, symbolizes Jesus is the head. This is shown as Jesus, the Head of the Body of Christ, His church. (John 20:3-7)

Colossians 1:18—

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

4. The “other disciple” saw and believed when he went in the tomb. At that moment, they had yet to understand the fulfillment of Scripture in Jesus’ rising from the dead (John 20:8-10).

Psalms 16:10—

**For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**

5. Mary stayed at the tomb because God was going to once again use her as a first witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (John 20:11-18)

6. Mary had to stoop down to look into the tomb. This is a picture of worship of God as we stoop down to worship Him who is Holy. (John 20:11)

7. The two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where Jesus had lain, point to the Holy of Holies and the mercy seat covering the ark of the covenant where cherubim point their wings in worship toward the presence of God. (John 20:12)

8. The question, “Woman, why are you weeping,” is asked twice—once by the angels and once by Jesus Himself. (John 20:13a)
9. Mary’s answer of “my Lord” signifies her personal understanding of who Jesus is. (John 20:13b)
10. Jesus was there, but He had to reveal Himself to her personally for her to see Him. (John 20:14-16).
11. Jesus told Mary not to cling to Him because He still needed to ascend to the Father. The physical presence of Jesus had to leave this earth to sit at the right hand of the Father until it is time for Him to return. (John 20:17)

Hebrews 10:12-13—

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

12. Mary was a witness of Jesus’ resurrection, telling the disciples about Him and what He said to her, just like the Samaritan woman was a witness of Jesus’, telling the men of the city about Him. God used these two women and His personal, one-on-one interactions with them to tell others about Jesus and bring them to Him. (John 20:18)

John 4:28-30—

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

John 20:19-31: That You May Believe

13. On that same day (Resurrection Sunday), Jesus appeared through the shut doors to present Himself alive to the disciples. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord, a contrast to how remnant Israel will react when they see the Lord when He returns to the earth. (John 20:19-20)

Zechariah 12:10—

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

14. When the apostles received the Holy Spirit they received the power of Christ to offer forgiveness in His name as they are sent out to proclaim the gospel. They are also given power to retain the sins of any. (John 20:21-23)
See the example of Ananias/Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11.
15. Thomas’ honest sentiments were used as an incredible teachable moment by Jesus, written down for two millennia of believers to read and overcome their unbelief in Jesus’ resurrection. (John 20:24-28).

16. Jesus promised a blessing for those of us who have not yet seen His resurrection body physically but have believed in Him as Lord and God, the Resurrection and the Life. (John 20:29)
17. The Gospel of John records seven signs as a completed witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

The Seven Signs of Jesus in the Gospel of John

1. **Turning Water to Wine (John 2:1-11)**
2. Healing the Nobleman's Son (John 4:26-54)
3. Healing the Lame Man (John 5:1-15)
4. Feeding Five Thousand (John 6:1-14)
5. Walking on Water (John 6:15-21)
6. Healing the Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)
7. Raising Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:1-44)

Conclusions:

- Jesus entrusted the most important understanding about Him—His resurrection—to the most unlikely of people. This is so those who hear their testimony would believe by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.