

## John 20:1-23 – The Resurrection

Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished”. This was a great proclamation of victory. He had accomplished all that the Father had given him to accomplish while he lived on the earth. As Hebrews 10:12 says, “when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God”. (ESV) He sat down at the Father’s right hand because his perfect sacrifice for sins was complete and pleasing to God the Father.

### **Read John 20:1-10.**

Why did Mary Magdalene go to the tomb so early? When she got there she found the stone removed from the opening of the tomb and that Jesus’ body was not there. What did she do when she couldn’t find Jesus’ body? (20:1-2)

What did Peter and the other disciple do when they heard that Jesus’ body was gone from the tomb? (20:2-10)

Who was the other disciple who went with Peter to the tomb? This other disciple “believed” when he entered the empty tomb and saw the linen clothes and the face cloth. Based on verse 9, what did he believe and what did he and the other disciples still not understand at this time? (20:8-9)

I find myself in the awkward position of challenging most English translations of verse 10. The issue is with “to their homes”. Peter and John were from Galilee. That is where their homes were. They didn’t go back to Galilee on the day when Jesus rose from the dead. The original language, if translated literally, just says that they went back “to them” or “to themselves”. I take this to mean that they went back to where the other disciples were staying while they were in Jerusalem for the Passover. NASB has “homes” in italics which means that the word “homes” was not in the original text. NIV has “where they were staying”. (20:10)

### **Read John 20:11-18.**

Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb after she told Peter and John that Jesus’ body was missing. What was she doing at the tomb? What did the angels say to Mary? How did Mary respond to the angels? (20:11-13)

When Mary first saw Jesus, who did she think he was? What did Jesus ask her? How did Mary answer Jesus? How did Mary finally recognize Jesus? (20:14-16)

How did Mary respond when she realized that she was talking to Jesus? What did Jesus say to Mary? (20:17-18)

**Read John 20:19-23.**

On the same day when Jesus rose from the dead, he went to where the disciples were and he stood among them. There has been much debate about how Jesus got into the place where the disciples were. Why was the door shut? What did Jesus first say to the disciples? Why did Jesus show them his hands and side? How did the disciples react when they recognized Jesus? (20:19-20)

What charge did Jesus give to his disciples in verse 21? What help did Jesus give to his disciples so that they could fulfill their mission? (20:21-22)

In verse 23, what did Jesus mean about forgiving and holding forgiveness of sins?

While we don't know exactly what our resurrected bodies will be like, we do know some facts. Jesus has a resurrected body and he is the first fruits of his sheep who will follow with resurrected bodies at his second coming. 1 Corinthians 15 speaks to the nature of our resurrected bodies.

If our resurrected bodies are confined to the same restrictions which our present bodies are under then we are all in big trouble. We are currently confined to the three dimensions of space and to the dimension of time. If Jesus, as the first fruits, has a resurrected body which is confined to the restrictions of time and space, then he could not return to the Father. The Father created the universe. His dwelling place is not "inside" his creation. To be with God, we need to have resurrected bodies which are not confined to time and space. Jesus' appearance to the disciples was reminiscent of some of the accounts when an angel suddenly appeared. Paul said that we will all be changed. Our resurrected bodies will be spiritual, imperishable and immortal.