



Jesus' First Steps Led Outside the Tomb

Text: John 20:1-18 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: During the past 7 weeks we have followed Jesus' final steps to His cross and tomb. Today, we come to Jesus' first steps outside His tomb.

1. **Jesus' Body Was Gone:** ¹ **Now on the first *day* of the week [on Sunday] Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." //** The other disciple was John, *the writer of this gospel*. Was John trying to say that Jesus loved him more? No, *he expressed his amazement that Jesus would love even him!*
2. **Peter and John Ran to the Tomb:** ³ **So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb [possibly from the upper room location, which is about .75 miles from the tomb]. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. //** Since John lived the longest, *he may have been the youngest apostle*, which may be why he outran Peter.

3. **John Saw and Believed:** ⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own homes [to the places where they were staying in Jerusalem].
- a. What did the Holy Spirit use to convince John that Jesus was risen? Circumstantial evidence! As a good detective carefully considers all the evidence of a crime scene, so John, *by the Holy Spirit*, considered all he saw: ☞The linen wrappings *in one orderly pile* and ☞the facecloth *rolled up by itself*.
- b. John considered the evidence and believed: ➔The body of Jesus had been raised, ➔Jesus removed the wrappings Himself, and ➔Jesus rolled the facecloth in an orderly manner. As John saw Jesus raise Lazarus, so **John, by the HS, believed Jesus was risen!** He believed ✓without understanding the Scripture and ✓without seeing Jesus with his own eyes! Let us do the same!
4. **Two Angels Spoke to Mary:** ¹¹ **But Mary** [Magdalene] **was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away [the body of] my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid [it].”**

- a. Imagine Mary's sadness when Jesus died: Then her further sadness when Jesus' body was missing. Mary was overwhelmed with sadness – *because she failed to **embrace and remember** these earlier words of Jesus: "...the Son of Man will be... handed over... mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again"* (Luke 18:31-33).
- b. How are we like Mary and racehorses? Sometimes we have blinders on; when we do, *we focus on one event and forget about the BIG picture* – that **✦God** is in control, **✦God** loves us, and **✦God** is working for the good of those who love Him. The Bible says: **"...in everything give thanks..."** (1 Thess. 5:18). Very difficult, *yet very important!* May the LORD help us to give thx!

5. **Mary Met Jesus:** ¹⁴ **When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.** ¹⁵ **Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"** Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, **"Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid [His body], and I will take [it] away."** ¹⁶ **Jesus said to her, "Mary!"** She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, **"Rabboni!"** (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷ **Jesus said to her, "...go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"** ¹⁸ **Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" ...**

- a. Think about Mary (Luke 8:1-3): **✦**she was in absolute misery – *possessed by seven demons*, **then ✦**Jesus healed her and saved her, **then ✦**she traveled with Jesus and His disciples, and **then ✦**she witnessed Jesus'

crucifixion and death ([John 19:25-34](#)). Mary was so filled with **GRIEF**, then, meeting the risen Jesus, she was so filled with **JOY!** Jesus truly ♦lived, ♦died, and ♦is risen!

b. Realize the **impact** of Jesus' resurrection:

- i. Jesus is the Son of God in human flesh!
- ii. The Son was sent by the Father to save us!
- iii. All that Jesus taught is true!
- iv. This life is not the end!
- v. Each of us consist of body, soul, and spirit!
- vi. Death separates a body from its soul and spirit!
- vii. The repentant are welcomed into Paradise!
- viii. The unrepentant are sent to Hades!
- ix. Jesus will return at the appointed time!
- x. All people will stand before Jesus!
- xi. The repentant will enter the fullness of eternal life!
- xii. The unrepentant will enter eternal torment!

- c. **Today** is the day of salvation: **Jesus has made the way!** **The offer of eternal bliss is now being extended.** If you are not yet among the repentant, *now is your golden opportunity!* For all who know Jesus as Savior and Lord, let us ♥ thank Him from the depth of our being and ♥ follow Him every day of our lives!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, may Your ♦sinless living, ♦sacrificial dying, and ♦glorious resurrection ***deeply and positively transform each of our lives now and forever!***

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