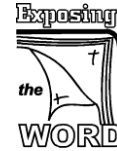




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45- Verification on Resurrection Sunday... John 20:1-23

In our journey through John we have looked at seven sign miracles that John recorded out of the many that Jesus performed. We first saw the water turned into wine then healing of a man at the pool and the official son that was healed. We observed Jesus feed 5000 with only a small lunch and then Him walking on the water in a storm. He healed a blind man that was blind from birth, a feat that had never been done before and we saw Him call Lazarus from the grave after he had been dead four days. All these were verification that Jesus was the promised Messiah of Israel.

We saw Jesus making statements that were undeniably claims that He was God many times after these miracles.

And now we come to the capstone of verification of His deity and Messiahship in this session.

If all these things had been performed and Jesus had passed into history as all other men who had lived, may I suggest, that we would be no better off. The gospel would have no power, no hope if all we had was a birth, a life and a death.

Paul stated it this way in *1 Corinthians 15:14ff* ***And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ ... 17 ... ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.***

So the greatest verification of Jesus as Messiah is the resurrection. The great validation of our hope for the future, both on

earth and beyond is based on Christ resurrection.

I- Women Arrive Early:

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Matthew tells us that the day after Jesus was buried that the Sanhedrin went before Pilate and requested that a guard be placed at the tomb. We see the preparation for the arrival of the women by God with the words recorded again in Matthew. ***Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.***

John picks up the narrative with the arrival of the women early. They had come to do a better job with the body of Christ because it had been so hastily buried.

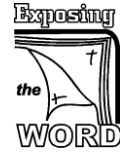
Joh 20:1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

The women arrive and the stone is gone. Mary Magdalene runs to inform the other followers of Christ that someone had stolen the body and she did not know where they had taken it.

II- Peter and John Arrive:

When Peter and John heard what Mary said they ran to the tomb.

Joh 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. 5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the



linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher...

John arrives first, out running Peter, but he stopped at the door. Peter arrived and typical of him, he ran on into the tomb.

III- Evidence Body Not Stolen:

When the scene is investigated and we look at the account we see that the first clue that the body was not stolen was the napkin that had been wrapped around his head was folded and lying off to the side.

Joh 20:6b...and seeth the linen clothes lie, 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. 8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. 9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

When they saw this they again returned home. Jesus had told them on numerous occasions that He would rise again but they had not become cognitive of it. They had only heard it with their ears and not their heart and brains.

IV- Why Are You Weeping?

Mary second arrival at the tomb seemed to be after John and Peter had departed. The piecing together of the events at times are a bit fuzzy in my mind. Here in John it seems she is alone with her thoughts and sorrow.

Joh 20:11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

Perhaps she thought I will look one more time and see if my eyes have been lying to me. She may have hoped she had been dreaming and that it was not true that He was stolen.

Joh 20:12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?

She sees two angels sitting on the ledge where the body had been laid. They ask her why she is crying. Her reply was one that dripped with sorrow and hopelessness. *Joh 20:13b...She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.*

This in her mind had, as we would say, added insult to injury. Not only had they killed Jesus but now someone had stolen His body.

V- Mary:

She turned, possibly preparing to leave the tomb, and sees another man there. She assumed it was the gardener.

Joh 20:14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

She again appeals to this man to tell her where they have taken the body so she can give Jesus a proper undisturbed burial.

We can only imagine how sweet the sound of her name was to Mary. This is not the gardener, this is the risen Lord. He calls her name, Mary.

Joh 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

At the sound of her name she instantly knows that it is Jesus. It only took her name to verify in her heart that this was not the gardener but the Lord Who is alive.



VI- Stop Clinging and Go Tell:

Mary wanted to grab hold and never let go. *Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

The NASB says, *Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me..."*

Jesus tells her to go tell the others that He is alive. Mary is the bearer of the greatest news ever. He's alive, He's alive. Would they believe?

VII- Message Delivered:

John does not give us many details of what took place when Mary went to tell the others. The tells us only the message was delivered. *Joh 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.*

It is Mark's gospel that tells us they did not believe her when she told them. *Mark 16: 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.*

There are many events that transpired during this day until evening. Jesus not only appeared to Mary but to other women as well. (See *Matt 28:9-10*).

The message was also delivered by the guard to the Sanhedrin.

Mat 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. 12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, 13 Saying, Say ye, His

disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

Jesus also appeared to two on the road to Emmaus. (See *Luke 24:13-32*) Mark gives an abbreviated account. *Mar 16:12-13 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.* What would it take to awaken faith?

VIII- Verification to Disciples:

The disciples were hiding in the upper room still fearing the Jewish leadership when Jesus arrived.

Joh 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

He appears and speaks peace.

Joh 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. The scars on His hands, the scars on His feet, the scar on His side showed that it was indeed Jesus.

IX- Sent:

What is the purpose of this today? Beloved it is so men will believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Please notice that it does not end there however.

Joh 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

Believing is the first part, telling is the second. Jesus has no less sent you and I to tell the good news that Jesus was verified to be the Messiah on Resurrection Sunday. Beloved we have been saved but we have also been sent, sent to tell others, He's alive, He's alive.