

Context

- 1] Jesus had been seized in a garden outside the city across the Kidron brook (18:1-11)
- 2] He was denied by His principal disciple, Peter and tried before the High priest and the Roman governor (18:12-40)
- 3] Pilate reluctantly acceded to the crowds call to have Him crucified (19:1-37)
- 4] Wealthy and powerful but secret disciples, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, buried the body in a nearby tomb (19:38-42)

The resurrection (20:1-10)

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

This was the First day of the week – Jesus was crucified on Friday, the next day was Saturday, the Sabbath, the 7th day of the week. Now it was the first day of the week – early on Sunday morning
We know a few things of Mary Magdalene

- She was from Magdala, a village on northern shores of Galilee
- Jesus had driven 7 demons from her (Lk 8:2) – she was an outcast from society, no family or husband
- Thereafter she was one who had been with Jesus and looked after them from the beginning

Nb Mary Magdalene only is named but there were others present – when reporting the missing body in vs2 she says 'we don't know where they have laid him'

*I.e. so this means that the **principal** witness of the resurrection is one of least standing a single, ostracised, mad, peasant woman from upcountry Galilee*

ever thought you had no qualifications' to meet the risen Jesus?!

2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Nb So she ran – she didn't go in. It was dark. How did she know the body was not there?!

*'The one whom Jesus loved' was a self-referral of the one who was writing, the Apostle John it is seen by many of Jesus' favouritism, but of John's wonder not only does he love the world – 'for God so loved the world... ' (Jn 3:16) but **even** loves me!*

3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

Nb This report shows a) an eyewitness account b) that they took the news very seriously and sprinted flat out to the tomb

5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

*?Why were the linen grave clothes lying. Why was the head piece separate and folded?
The shroud was a grave cloth – not a garment of a living person*

*If taken off **by another** – they may have been all together, folded or unfolded.*

*If the body was resurrected, - first the body is released., the person stepped out of the grave clothes
Then they unravelled their head separately and the long cloth may be folded.*

8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

I.e. the first disciple, John, believed... i.e. He believed what Mary had said – that they have taken the Lord and we don't know where they have taken him – i.e. there is NO BODY!

9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.

What scripture is this? Places Jesus has said like the Prophet Jonah! "So just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.

? ??Homes – plural? Were Peter and John staying in different houses. Why put this in unless this was an eyewitness account?

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (20:11-18)

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.

Nb Peter and John had just gone into the tomb and seen no one. Now Mary Magdalene now goes in and sees two angels.

The angels are - One at the head and one at the feet – i.e. their focus is on the body of Jesus

13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

nb This is the 3rd time the text says that she was weeping (cf 12)

i.e. she is grieving – there is no expectation whatsoever of resurrection

14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

cf later in the day, Cleopas and friend on the road to Emmaus, met Jesus but didn't recognise Him. Luke says, 'their eyes were kept from recognising Him'. (Lk 24:16)

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 Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

nb It is when you know that Jesus is addressing you personally that you respond. That response is intimate and personal.

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

*I.e. don't try and hold on to the experience of Easter story cf the Christmas story
my Father and your Father, my God and your God = you are included
Cf I go and prepare a place for you (Jn 14:3)
I.e. Don't worry. I will make sure that through death all will be well for you.*

18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" and that He had said these things to her.

*Nb We'll fight them on the beaches WS. What ships? Admiral N. I came I saw I conquered.
"I have seen the Lord" = the most significant statement / announcement ever made**

Jesus appears to the disciples (20:19-23)

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

*Sunday evening = 9hrs later of the same day of 'the empty tomb'
Behind locked doors for fear of the Jews*

I.e. frightened of a similar fate to Jesus -crucifixion?

Nb Jesus says 'peace' – that is the opposite of fear

20 When he had said this, he showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

*Nb there is evidence for faith - it is not simply a 'leap in the dark'.
However, it is not conclusive, it needs a faithful response hence 'they were glad'.*

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

*In what way is He sending Jesus and then His people?
Cf God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through Him. (Jn 3:17)*

22 And when he had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

*Cf the Lord breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Gen 2:7)
This is the new life that they are receiving*

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Nb this is not the personal power to forgive individual sins. It is the commission of His people to declare the forgiveness of Jesus to all who acknowledge Him

Jesus appears to Thomas (20:24-29)

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

??? This is what the others received in vs 20 'When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side'

26 Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Nb 8 days later

Repetition of still behind locked doors

Jesus as 'Peace be with you' for a third time cf (20:19,20)

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Nb Not a rebuke – He had shown the evidence of His crucifixion to all the disciples (20)

Thomas' response - 'My Lord and my God'- not an expletive but a confession of belief that Jesus was God as John had stated at the beginning of his Gospel = "In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (cf Jn 1:1,14)

29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Nb Jesus observes many will believe who don't see as the first disciples did

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

What is this all about? John says this is what needs to be communicated to the world

"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name"