

March 27, 2016

*The Pursuit: His Unrelenting Plan to Save Us  
A series on Jesus' last week  
The Gospel of John: Chapters 13-21*

## **“He Rose: Sight Unseen”**

*John 20-21*

*“Then Jesus told him, ‘You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.’”  
John 20:29*

### **A. Mary...seeing is not believing...**

1. Mary came and saw the evidence, but didn't believe.

*“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.” Vs 1*

2. Mary ran to tell the disciples.

*“So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!’” Vs 2*

3. Mary wept over the death and disappearance of Jesus as she loved Him.

*“Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb” Vs 11*

4. Mary saw Jesus and then believed.

*“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.” Vs 18*

### **B. Peter and John...seeing is almost believing...**

1. Peter and John had closely followed Jesus during the trials, His suffering, and His death.

*“Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus.” 18:15*

2. Peter and John were told by Mary that Jesus' body was gone.

*“So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!’” Vs 2*

3. Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves.

*“So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.” Vs 3*

4. Peter and John saw and believed but lacked understanding.

*“He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)” Vs 8b-9*

### **C. Disciples...not seeing and not believing...**

1. The disciples fled at the arrest of Jesus and remained hidden for fear of losing their lives.

*“Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.” Matthew 26:56b*

2. Sunday evening, Jesus appeared to His disciples as they hid behind locked doors.

*“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them...” Vs 19a*

3. Jesus first words to them were “Peace” and they were overjoyed to see Him.

*“and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” Vs 19b-20*

4. The fear of the disciples kept them behind locked doors.

*“A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them...” Vs 26*

### **D. Thomas...not believing till he was seeing...**

1. Thomas continued to doubt the messages he heard from Mary.

*“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.” Vs 18*

2. Thomas doubted the message of the disciples.

*“Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.” Vs 24*

3. Thomas doubted until Jesus appeared before him.

*“But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.’” Vs 25b*

4. Thomas believed after seeing.

*“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’ Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” Vs 27-28*

### **E. You...believing before seeing...**

*“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Vs. 29*

1. Why should we believe?

Fact #1 The Broken Roman Seal

Fact #2 Empty Tomb

Fact #3 Large Stone Moved

Fact #4 Roman Guard Goes AWOL

Fact #5 Graveclothes Tell a Tale

Fact #6 Jesus' Appearances Confirmed

\*Evidence for the Resurrection by Josh McDowell

2. When we see our need, we believe!

*“Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!’” Mark 9:24*

3. Nothing is more convincing than a changed life!

*“And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.” Revelation 12:11a*

4. Believe and you will see!

*“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9*

April 3, 2016

### **“He Lives: Finding My Purpose”**

*John 21*

*“‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ Peter replied, ‘you know I love you.’ ‘Then feed my lambs,’ Jesus told him.” John 21:15b*

## A Chronological Sequence of the Resurrection Appearances – Charles Pope

### I. The Morning of Day One

- A. Very early in the morning a group of several women, including Mary Magdalene, approach the tomb to complete burial customs on behalf of Jesus (Matt 28:1; Mk 16:1; Jn 20:1).
- B. They behold the tomb opened and are alarmed.
- C. Mary Magdalene runs to Peter and John with distressing news of likely grave robbers (John 20:2)
- D. The women who remain encounter an angel who declared to them that Jesus had risen and that they should tell this to the brethren (Mk 16:5; Lk 24:4; Matt 28:5).
- E. They are filled with fear at first and depart from the tomb afraid to speak (Mk 16:8)
- F. Recovering their courage they decide to go to the Apostles. (Luke 24:9; Matt 28:8)
- G. Meanwhile Peter and John have gone out to the tomb to investigate Mary's claim. Mary Magdalene followed them back out to the tomb arriving before they left. Peter and John discover the tomb empty though they encounter no angel. John believes in the resurrection. Peter's conclusion is not recorded.
- H. The other women have reported what the angels say to the Apostles. Peter and John have not yet returned and these remaining apostles are dismissive of the women's story at first (Lk 24:9-11).
- I. Mary, lingering at the tomb weeps and is fearful. Peering into the tomb she sees this time two angels who wonder why she weeps. Jesus then approaches her from behind. Not looking directly at Jesus, she supposes him to be the gardener. Then he calls her by

name, and Mary, recognizing his voice, turns and sees him. Filled with joy she clings to him. **(APPEARANCE 1)** (Jn 20:16)

- J. Jesus sends her back to the apostles with the news to prepare them for his appearance later that day. (Jn 20:17)
- K. The other women have departed the apostles and are on their way possibly back home. Jesus then appears to them (Mat 28:9) after he had dispatched Mary. He also sends them back to the apostles with the news that he had risen and that he would see them. **(APPEARANCE 2)**