

Episode 2-28 – John 20 Part 2 - Witness to the Resurrection

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have considered the Lord's death on the cross for our sins, and His burial. Now, we come to the momentous event of His resurrection, and the record of those who witnessed it.

III. John 20:12-18. Mary Magdalene meets the Lord.

- A. V.12. Were these two angels Gabriel and Michael? Maybe. Angels look like men in white clothes, and have no wings, as they do in fanciful drawings. The word "angel" is the Greek word for a "messenger," and is the name of a job, not of a heavenly race of beings. They came both with messages and with other things like physical aid, so they were really God's agents.
- B. V.13. "Woman" is a term of endearment. Mary repeats her conclusion. In her grief she is not thinking clearly, for her weeping has much more had to do with His death than with not knowing where His body is!
- C. V.14. Mary stops talking to the angels, turns, and sees the Lord. Yet she does not recognize Him. Perhaps she was not seeing clearly through her tears? Or were her eyes held back? Or did she not really look? It is hard to say.
- D. V.15. She was seeking Him! By "gardener" she means the cemetery keeper. She gets this wild idea that the gardener may have moved the body. Her offer is really a silly statement: where would she take His body if she had it, assuming she could lift it?
- E. V.16. The Lord now intends her to recognize Him, and so she cannot mistake it. She had probably heard the Lord say her name this way many times. Even the dead can recognize Him speak their name. Her sorrow quickly turned to joy! John 16:20.
- F. V.17. She wanted to touch Him, but was not allowed to do so. Later He let women cling to His feet (Matt. 28:9.) The public event of "The Ascension" when He went to heaven (Psalm 110:1) was not the only time He ascended. Why did He need to ascend before He could be touched? He needed to present Himself before God as the completed sacrifice, the firstfruits from among the dead. I Cor. 15:20. Lev. 23:10-11. He returned to His Father after talking with Mary, then came back to earth. He equates His Father with God. Do you believe this?
- G. V.18. He said "My brethren," but she understood the disciples. Matt. 12:50. He had already told them that He was about to do this, John 16:28. The plan is proceeding!

IV. John 20:19-23. The Lord and the Twelve.

- A. V.19. Again this means "One of the Sabbaths." They have locked themselves in, fearing the Jews. There is no indication this was the upper room where they kept the Passover, either here or in Acts 1:13. Could He pass through walls because of His resurrection body, which was "spiritual"? No, see Luke 24:39. This had nothing to do with His body: He was the Lord, and so had power to do such things.
- B. V.20. The Lord wanted them to know this was not a vision, but He was really there in the flesh. John 16:20-22 is coming true: their sorrow is being turned to joy!
- C. V.21. Now they had a mission from God like Christ did: to continue the work He began. In Acts, they do this, acting as He would have in the same situation. Sent = *apostello*, to send with authority. Send = *pempo*, He sends them by His Holy Spirit Who was along wherever they went as apostles.

- D. V.22. This same One brought Adam to life just like this (Genesis 2:7.) No “thes” here, so this refers to holy power. Power to do what? The answer in verse 23.
 - E. V.23. This is not about church discipline, nor about baptism. Some give this power to their priests...but when did the Lord ever breathe on them? Matt. 19:28. These men have great authority! Peter retains the sins of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11,) but forgives the sin of Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24.) It is arrogant to claim this power.
- V. Conclusion: Eyewitnesses tell us so: the Lord rose from the dead, and this proves He is God and His sacrifice for us was accepted. There is only one question left: do we believe it?