



Easter Sunday: He Is Risen! John 20:1-23

From the Empty Tomb to a Sent People

Big Idea: The road to glory leads to an empty tomb, a living Savior, and a sent people.

I. An Empty Tomb [John 20:1-8]

John 20:9-13 captures the transition from confusion to revelation—the tomb is empty, the resurrection has happened, but the followers of Jesus have not yet fully grasped its meaning. Mary’s grief sets the stage for her personal encounter with the risen Christ in the following verses.

II. A Living Savior [John 20:14-18]

III. A Sent People [John 20:19-23]

- A. Blessing of Peace from the Risen Christ [19-20]
- B. The Commissioning of the Disciples [21]
- C. The Promise of the Spirit [22-23]

Study Read John 20:1-23 and consider these questions:

- [1] How does the reality of the empty tomb change the way you view your own life, fear, or doubts?
- [2] Where do you see Jesus meeting you personally in your current circumstances, and how is He calling you to respond?
- [3] How can you participate in His mission as a sent person in your family, church, or community?

Challenge This week, reflect daily on one way the resurrection changes your life:

- [1] Begin with gratitude for the empty tomb (freedom from sin and fear).
- [2] Seek a personal encounter with the living Savior through Scripture, prayer, or worship.
- [3] Take one intentional step to be sent—share hope, encourage someone, or serve in a kingdom mission.

Prayer Thank you Jesus for rising from the grave and conquering death. Help me not just to believe in the resurrection, but to experience You personally in my life. Transform my fear into peace, my doubt into faith, and my life into a witness of Your love. Send me to others with courage, hope, and joy, so that they too may know the glory of Your resurrection.

[John 20:1-8] Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, [Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-2, Luke 24:1] while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. [Matthew 27:60, 66, 28:2, Mark 15:46, 16:3-4, Luke 24:2] 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, [13:23] and we do not know where they have laid him.” [20:13]

³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. [Luke 24:12] ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. [19:40] 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. [11:44] ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; . . . [20:4]

[John 20:14-18] ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, [Mark 16:9, Matthew 28:9] but she did not know that it was Jesus. [21:4, Luke 24:16, 31] ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? [20:13] Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, [19:41] 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). [1:38] 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, [Matthew 28:10] ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, [Mark 16:19, John 14:12] to my God and your God.’” [Matthew 27:46, Ephesians 1:17, Revelation 3:2, 3:12, 1 Corinthians 3:23] ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”— and that he had said these things to her. [Mark 16:10, Matthew 28:10, Luke 24:10, 22-23]

[John 20:19-23] On the evening [1 Corinthians 15:5, 20:26] of that day, the first day of the week, [Luke 24:33,36] the doors being locked [20:26] where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, [7:13] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” [14:27] ²⁰ When he had said this, [Luke 24:40] he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. [16:22] ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, [17:18, 3:17] even so I am sending you.” [14:20, Acts 1:2] ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them [Genesis 2:7] and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. [Acts 2:4, John 7:39] ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” [7:39, Acts 2:4]