

2nd Sunday of Easter - Study

4/14/20

Passages:

Luke 24:1-12

John 20: 1-18

Luke 24:1-12 (NRSV)

24But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8Then they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.."

- Empty grave
- Angels pronounce to the women what has happened
- Many women are present (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary-mother of James, and "other" women)
- The women tell the men. Although these are all respected women, and there are many of them, the Disciples do not believe them. This sets up the Disciples coming to faith later.
- Peter goes to the tomb to confirm the women's report and "wonders".
- The core of this passage is: "He is not here, He is risen".
- The empty tomb does not, in itself, convince the Disciples of Jesus' resurrection.

John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

20Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2So 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." 3Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

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5He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13They 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." 14When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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." 16Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because 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.'" 18Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

- The empty tomb
- Only one woman, Mary Magdalene
- Side note: Mary Magdalene was probably not a prostitute or sinful woman. Jesus has exorcized 7 demons from her, ref Luke 8:2
- John puts a sense of urgency into his version of the events: Mary **RAN** to tell the Disciples; the Disciples **RAN** to the tomb to see!
- John adds another person to visit the tomb: the "Beloved Disciple", that is not present in the other texts.
- The other Disciple "saw and believed". It is likely that this Disciple already believed to some extent. Also, "believed" is probably referring to conquering death, and not the full Easter story of the resurrection.
- The angels talk to the woman, but don't make the big pronouncement. – that is too important, Jesus himself makes that proclamation.
- The Gospel writer inserts confusion and misdirection at certain points in his stories. Mary looks at Jesus and mistakes him for the gardener.
- When Jesus says her name, all of a sudden she recognizes Him. This is consistent with earlier themes in the Gospels about the sheep knowing their master's voice.

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- When Mary uses the term “Rabbouni”, it does mean rabbi or teacher, but it is a more personal form of address. One that invokes endearment. This is to support the message that Jesus made that when He was crucified His people would cry, and when they saw Him again they would be filled with joy!
- Jesus commands Mary “not to hang onto Him” because He had important work to do. In the Gospel of John the phrase “lifted up” pulls together Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension into one phrase.

General Concepts

- The focus of each of these Easter stories is not about the empty tomb – rather it is about the risen Savior, the post-resurrection Jesus!
- Discipleship is not limited to men, women had the first experiences and the most personal experiences with the Easter Jesus.
- The Disciples didn’t believe at the empty tomb, they believed when they personally experienced the resurrected Jesus.
- That is how we believe – when we have a personal experience with Jesus!
- The Easter message:
He is not here – He is risen!
- Jesus never did the expected, he didn’t hang out with the “right people”. We find Jesus outside of the 4-walls that we want to put Him in.