

A stylized blue silhouette of a man's head and shoulders, facing left. The silhouette is filled with various shades of blue. A white cross is positioned behind the man's forehead. A white path winds through the man's hair and down his neck. The background is a dark blue gradient.

John 20:1-18

His Best Friend's Gospel

The Resurrection



20 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. 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.”

John 20:1–18

ESV



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. 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.

⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.



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. 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.”



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



¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.



The Empty Tomb

- **Mary Arrives First:** Early in the early morning, finding the stone rolled away and Jesus' body missing.
- **Peter and John Follow:** They race to the tomb, driven by confusion and urgency.
- **The Folded Grave Clothes:** They discover an orderly scene, suggesting no theft.
- **John “sees and believes”:** Though his understanding is still incomplete.
- **Death Defeated:** The empty tomb signals that death has been overcome—a foundational truth of our faith.



Mary's Despair and Confusion

- **Overcome with Sorrow:** Mary remains at the tomb weeping, overwhelmed by sorrow.
- **Angelic figures appear:** They question why she weeps, but she still thinks someone has taken Jesus' body.
- **Mistaken for a Gardener:** Jesus appears beside her, but she does not recognize him
- **Confusion and Grief:** Her tears and assumptions prevent her from recognizing Jesus at first.
- **Preconceptions Hinder Perception:** This moment highlights how grief and preconceived ideas can blind us to God's miraculous work.



A Risen Lord, and a New Relationship

- **Called by Name:** Jesus says just “Mary” instantly breaking through her sorrow and disbelief.
- **Recognizing Him as “Rabboni”:** She grasps that He is truly alive.
- **“Do not Cling to Me”:** Jesus explains that He has not yet ascended, shifting their relationship from physical presence to spiritual communion.
- **A Call to Share:** Mary is commissioned to share the good news with the disciples, becoming the first witness of the Resurrection.
- **A New Purpose:** This personal encounter shows Christ’s transformative call and the purpose He gives us in His mission.



Conclusion

- **Core of Our Faith:** The Resurrection is the defining event that validates Jesus' claims and our hope.
- **Personal Encounter:** We must each hear Jesus call our name, moving beyond mere facts to genuine faith.
- **Transformed Perspectives:** Like Mary, we exchange our sorrow and confusion for the joy of knowing Christ alive.
- **Called to Proclaim:** Every believer is sent out to declare, "I have seen the Lord!" to a world in need.
- **Living Hope:** The empty tomb reminds us that no darkness is too great for God's redemptive power.

