

# **EASTER!**

Lesson 1

John chapter 20

April 9, 2023

## **The Night Nobody Slept**

### **INTRODUCTION**

What is the most important event in history? For the Christian, it is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Before this event, there had been the creation and the fall—man represented by Adam choosing disobedience to God over fellowship with God. Since those epochal events, man's history had been in an aimless spiral. What was going to stop mankind's dilemma? God sent and gave His Son to death and then resurrected Jesus to show His power over death so we may have redemption and eternal life. Consider Paul's words to the Corinthians: "...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17) Yes, if the resurrection did not happen, we are wasting our time at church.

But it did happen; we can see that in the lives of Jesus' disciples and today in the Holy Spirit. As Billy Graham said, "There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three."<sup>1</sup> So, let's travel back to that first Easter Sunday morning before sunrise to the most important event in history!

***Memory verse: "Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"—John 20:28***

Pray, and read John chapter 20. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://billygraham.org/devotion/evidence-of-jesus/>

## **OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?**

1. Who first goes to the tomb Jesus was buried in? Describe what happens. (John 20:1-2, 11-18)
2. Who comes to the tomb next and why? Describe what happens. (John 20:2-10)
3. Why are Jesus' disciples hiding later that evening? (John 20:19)
4. What are the disciples' responses when Jesus appears and speaks to them? (John 20:20, 24-25, 27-28)
5. What does the angel and/or Jesus say the first time He appears after He is resurrected from death? (John 20:12-13, 14-15, 17, 19-23, 29)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Who is Mary Magdalene, and what is the significance of her getting up before sunrise and being first at the tomb? (Matthew 27:55-61, 28:1; Luke 8:1-2, 24:9-12)
  
2. Jesus is alive again! He is seeing His disciples for the first time after this incredible event. Look again at what He says (see verses listed in question 5 above). Why do you think he chose these words? (John 14:25-27; Acts 2:1-4; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:8)
  
3. On this first Easter Sunday, the disciples were hiding and not fully believing each other. What do their subsequent actions say about the reality of them seeing Jesus resurrected? (John 21:17-19; Acts 3:6-9, 4:18-21)

4. What are some of the assurances the Bible provides regarding the veracity of the resurrection?  
(Isaiah 53:10; Luke 1:1-4; Romans 4:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 20-21)

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. The resurrection is not just a story; it's a true account. God gave His Son to death on the cross and had the power to bring Him back, and the Apostles went from being wimps to fearless. What do you think your response would have been?

2. A church-going friend of yours says, “There is no proof that a resurrection is even possible. But that doesn’t matter, we have Jesus’ great moral teachings, and that is what’s most important.” What would you say to that friend?

3. Consider God’s power in being able to resurrect Jesus from the dead and what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:14: “...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” Compose a prayer to God for this miracle and what it means to all Christians. Ask Him to reinforce the importance of this in your life. Know that we can cry out: “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)