

John 20:1-10
Rome Georgia
September 19, 1993
(from 3-30-86 draft)
September 4, 2016
9/11/16; 9/18/16; 9/25/16 digressed

OPENING SCRIPTURE READING - **JOHN 20:1-10**

A little boy said sadly to his mother "I am so disappointed! You told me something beautiful would come out of that brown thing I picked up the other day; I just now looked at it and I found a hole in it and only an empty skin was left."

"My child, **you have looked in the wrong place for what I promised.** Come with me. The mother took her young son back to the other room and there, not far from the empty cocoon was a lovely butterfly basking in the warm sun.

(IMPORTANT NOTE: The point of this illustration is not to equate the resurrection of Jesus with the metamorphosis of a caterpillar. The latter does not illustrate the former. The point being made is that the women at the tomb - were like this young boy, "looking in the wrong place.")

In our account of the events of the resurrection morning we find that the **women sought for Jesus in the tomb.**

In a parallel account in **Mark 16:1ff.** we find that instead of Jesus being in the tomb, there was instead an angel . . . "**be not amazed, ye seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified, HE IS RISEN, HE IS NOT HERE.**

JUST SO TODAY. Many people seek for Jesus in all the wrong places. Many still **seek Him on a cross.** Some can only picture Him as a **Babe in Bethlehem** Others yet seek Him in the **empty shell of dead orthodoxy and tradition.**

BUT - if Jesus is to be found at all - **we must find Him as He Is - HE IS RISEN. .**

It was the Sunday morning after the crucifixion and entombment of the body of Jesus - up before daylight, Mary and her companions made their way to the sepulcher where Jesus' body had been laid. They were coming to finish the hastily begun and reluctantly abandoned task of anointing the Lord's body with spices.

AS THEY WALKED – **Mark 16:3** tells us, they wondered "who would **roll away the stone** for them from the entrance of the tomb."

MATT: 27:60 informs us that a **large stone had been ROLLED against the entrance** of the tomb. Greek word:

προσκυλίω proskuliō *pros-koo-lee'* - From **G4314** and **G2947**; to *roll towards*, that is, *block against*: - roll (to). **PROS** a preposition of direction; *forward to*, that is, *toward* . . . motion towards **KULIO - TO ROLL.**

There was justifiable concern for this problem. They needed access to the tomb. The stone stood in their way. As Matthew tells us, **the ladies were there** when the massive stone had been rolled into its place, sealing the entrance to the tomb.

Mat 27:61 And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

One of the spiritual songs that moves me the most is '**Where you there**'

Were You There (*particularly the cover by Selah!*)
Negro spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Mark 16:4 - relates what met their eyes. "**when they looked they saw that the stone was ROLLED away ana-kulio**

Mark uses the word "**to roll**" in a compound form adding the preposition "**ana**" **WHICH MEANS UP OR UPWARD**. Hence, we get the picture of this **huge stone being rolled up a slope or incline**. (stone would have been on a downward sloping "track" prior to sealing the tomb.)

IN FACT - the stone was so far up a slope that **Luke** used the same root word **KULIO** with a different preposition **APO** - **WHICH MEANS A SEPARATION FROM**. **Apo-kulio**

The ladies had been concerned who would roll the stone from the ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB. WHEN THEY GOT THERE THEY FOUND THE STONE - ROLLED AWAY - NOT ONLY FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB - **BUT AWAY FROM THE TOMB ITSELF!**

Luke 24:2 "AND THEY **FOUND THE STONE ROLLED AWAY FROM THE SEPULCHER.**"

So often in life, those things that we think will stand in our way – are rolled away by our Lord and Savior before we ever approach that which we have anticipated with dread.

JOHN IN OUR ACCOUNT IN **JOHN 20:1** USES AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WORD TO DESCRIBE THE POSITION OF THE STONE. **AIRO** - WHICH MEANS "**TO LIFT SOMETHING UP AND CARRY IT AWAY**".

SO - We have the group of women coming to the tomb on Sunday morning and finding that the stone has been moved and in the **parallel accounts**, we see that they discover that the **LORD'S BODY IS GONE**.

Have you ever wondered why God allowed the women to make this discovery first? In our day we have all sorts of means of communication - **TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES and TELE-COMMUNICATIONS** of all manner of speaking.

(last night (**1993!**) on TV there was a woman who was calling her husband at work **on the television** rather than on a conventional phone.
Information transfer is measured in **NANO-SECONDS** (1,000th of a second).

NOW (2016, just 23 years later) we can watch TV on our telephones – and carry them in our pocket!

But in Jesus day they had an even faster method of communication.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS - CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF **TELE-WOMAN**
.It was measured in **NANNY-SECONDS**. The amount of time it took for a story to be repeated.

(Gladys in Born Loser comics - "**you know I don't repeat gossip. So listen carefully the first time!**")

AND TELL THEY DID!

20:2 Then she **ran** and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, **whom Jesus loved**, (*John*) and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." *NKJV*

SHE RAN TO PETER AND JOHN.

John 20:3-4 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both **ran** together, and the other disciple **outran** Peter and came to the tomb first.

JOHN - BEING THE YOUNGER, GOT THERE FIRST.

PARAKUPTŌ- STOOPING DOWN. "LEANING SIDEWAYS TO LOOK INTO"

Παρακύπτω *parakuptō* - *par-ak-ooop'-to* From [G3844](#) and [G2955](#); to **bend beside**, that is, **lean over** (so as to *peer within*): - look (into), stoop down.

(**I PETER 1:12** - which things the angels desire **to look into**. - *parakuptō*)

John **SAW THE LINEN CLOTHES**" βλέπω **blepō** *blep'-o* **Simple Sight** (*Vincent's Word Study*)

He saw the content of the tomb but **did not at first** clearly understand what he glanced at.

It is a natural response to approaching a dead body. There is an involuntary hesitancy, a certain trepidation coupled with fear, and respect for the solemnity of the moment.

(*Jewish boy struck by car 3 weeks ago (in 1993) in Atl.on N. Druid Hills Rd.*)

The driver of the Bronco that hit him was out of his car, but was slow to approach the still body lying on the side of the road.

There is always a bit of fear connected with the unknown when death is involved
As I approached the silent, still form crumpled on the pavement, I saw a **yarmulke**, and from the size of "the pile of rags" I knew I was approaching a young man.

The **yarmulke** would be worn by one who had reached the age of accountability – a Jewish man. **Bar Mizvah – 13 for a boy to become a man**). Nearby, was a pair of **shoes** laying a few feet from the body, probably close to where he was standing when the Ford Bronco hit him and literally "**knocked him out of his shoes.**" The **shoes**, the **yarmulke**, the **clothing** all registered as **normal items**, but the horror of coming upon a still, silent, **misshapen body** on the pavement, possibly one from whom the life had left the body, was a moment frozen in time. Suddenly, I saw his chest move, and I knew he was alive.

. NOTE: Annette and I came upon this scene immediately after it happened. His father and siblings were not far behind him, a family walking to a synagogue for a Sabbath service. The boy had run ahead of the family, and stepped out from behind a phone-pole directly in the path of the car. I approached the father as he approached the scene, and I tried to prepare him for what his eyes were about to see . . .)

John 20: 6 - 7 -

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he **saw** *theōreō* the linen cloths lying *there*,

7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. (Jesus did not have to act in a hurried manner, he took time to fold the handkerchief. *(perhaps in anticipation of guests coming to see him in the tomb. Mary had raised her boy well!)*)

THEN COMETH **SIMON "IMPETUOUS" PETER**. HE WENT IN AND "**SEETH** *theōreō* THE LINEN" -

θεωρέω *theōreō* *theh-o-reh'-o* - behold, consider, look on, perceive, see

INTENT GAZE, CLOSER CONTEMPLATION.

THE CLOTHES ARE IN AN ORDERLY MANNER, THE FACE CLOTH, THE WRAPPINGS WITH THE SPICES UNDISTURBED. No violent act has occurred, the body was not unwrapped

THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS . . . UNLESS JESUS HAD DONE AS HE SAID HE WOULD!

Matthew 16:21 - From that time Jesus began to **show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.**

Matthew. 17:22-13 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "**The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,**

23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

And, a couple of chapters later

Matthew 20:18-19 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.

THE **MYSTERY** WAS NOT THAT HE HAD BEEN SLAIN - IT HAD BEEN DONE BEFORE.

- **IT WAS NOT THAT HE HAD BEEN BURIED** - THAT TOO WAS COMMONPLACE.
 - **THE MARVEL WAS - THAT JESUS HAD RAISED HIMSELF FROM THE DEAD!**

Jesus resurrection was unlike that of Lazarus who came forth from the grave bound in death's dress - which had to be unbound by others.

RISING FROM THE DEAD - WAS A NATURAL THING FOR JESUS TO DO . . .

It was **EFFORTLESS**

I COR. 15:20 "BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD AND BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT"

NO ONE UNBOUND HIM - HE OVERCAME DEATH!

John 20:8 THEN WENT IN **JOHN** - AND HE SAW AND BELIEVED. *eidōs* - SAW AND HE PERCEIVED.

εἶδος eidos i'-dos From G1492; a *view*, that is, *form* (literally or figuratively): - appearance, fashion, shape, sight..

HE GRASPED WHAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IT ALL WAS.

THEY LOOKED NO MORE FOR HIS BODY.

FOR HE KNEW WHAT HE SAW AND HE BELIEVED IN THE ONE WHOM HE DID NOT SEE!

JOHN 20:29B –
". . . **BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HAVE NOT SEEN YET HAVE BELIEVED**" JESUS TOLD MARTHA I

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

Often, when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, we are like **John** when he first looked in the tomb.

We need the encouragement from older believers (*like Peter*) to dive right in to understand the wonder and mysteries of our salvation. If we will but follow the lead of the faithful, those who, like Peter, are willing to plunge headlong into their

pursuit of the savior, we to can be like John when he both saw and understood the miracle of the resurrection life!

VICTORY OVER DEATH - DO YOU HAVE IT!

I JOHN 5:4-5

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. **5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
