

Resurrection Sunday!

John's Gospel @ CF...

John 20:1-10

Sermon notes – BK

April 5, 2026

GOOD MORNING!

Christ has RISEN!.... He has risen INDEED!



Happy Resurrection day!

Here at Central Faith, we like to teach through the Bible, one book at a time.

Over two years ago, we started teaching through the Gospel of John.

- **It is a wonderful Gospel that was written after the other three (Matthew, Mark and Luke)**
- **The first three Gospels cover a lot about what Jesus did.**
- **John's Gospel covers more about *who Jesus is*...**
 - **That Jesus is the Christ**
 - **Son of God and God the Son**
 - **AND that by BELIEVING you have life in His name**

- John's record of Jesus comes mostly from a first-hand witness perspective, *"That we may believe."*

I love that the Gospels all record the resurrection story from a bit of a different angle. This helps us to see it more fully. Today we are going to focus on John's angle in the time we have today...

SO, today, we will be covering the Easter message of the Resurrection of Jesus from John 20:1-10. John is not the traditional passage read on Easter Sunday...

AND this is part ONE of THREE messages on what happened on that first Resurrection Sunday...

A three-part Easter message?

YEP! Welcome to Central Faith!... *We are just a little different here ;-)*

It is always important to get the setting right, then we can go from there... John 18-19 fill us in on...

Jesus was:

- Betrayed by a friend and Disciple
- Falsely arrested
- Unfairly accused
- Unjustly found guilty
- Brutally beaten
- Horribly Crucified
- Dies with the proclamation, "It is finished!"

John makes it clear that this was no surprise. It was all in God's plan.

The time Jesus was crucified was exactly at the time the Passover lambs were slain.

God's plan for true and full redemption, saving us from ourselves and our rejecting God was now in place.

- **The thick, heavy veil hung in the Jewish Temple, separating God (the Ark of the Covenant) from man was torn in two at the time of Jesus' death...**

After Jesus died... Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (Two wealthy religious leaders) took Jesus down from the cross, and...

- **Prepared His body for burial**
- **Laid him in a tomb nearby**

In all of this, there were many prophecies from many hundreds of years earlier fulfilled.

SO... that's where we have it now. If you want to learn more, go to centralfaith.org for the earlier messages ;-)

That brings us to today... The first glimpses of Jesus' Resurrection! Let's read together how the Apostle John writes about this day that Jesus rose from the dead...

John 20:1-10

¹ 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. (Sunrise was at

about 6:15AM, so this was a bit before that) ² *So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved* (this was how the Apostle John identified himself -out of humility- in this Gospel), *and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”*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. (Maybe a bit of a “flex” on John’s part?!) 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.*

Here in John, like the other Gospels, Mary Magdalene is mentioned first. Mark mentions her to be the one whom Jesus cast 7 demons out of... (Mark 16:9, Luke 8:2).



We will get more into this next week, this is special and actually a reason for authenticity for the story of Jesus rising from the dead!

I will get into all of that next week

Mary goes to the tomb, sees it empty and John says she ran back to tell him and Peter.

They all would have been shocked... WHAT?!

John and Peter run to the tomb and find it as Mary said... Empty.

Can you picture the scene? Can you feel your heart pump and your thoughts racing in your head...

- What is going on?!
- Where could Jesus be?!

John and Peter run to the tomb...

John gets there first, but hesitates...

Peter gets there second, but goes right in...

- **They see the linen cloths...**
 - Last week we covered that Nicodemus brought a huge amount of Myrr and Aloes (what was used in burial)
 - Could it be that there was still a strong scent of those spices?
- **They see the face cloth folded up and put off to the side...**

- This is to show this was no case of someone stealing Jesus' body
- This is also to show that there was intention after Jesus rose...



Again... (Jesus rising) can you picture the scene

- Life coming back to Jesus
 - He squirms his way out
 - He smiles... folds the face cloth and sets it aside.
- I can see Jesus thanking Nicodemus for his generosity with the Myrr and Aloes... 75 pounds.. wow! (usual was 1-5 pounds... 40 pounds for royalty and people of honor...)

John 20:8-10

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.

There is a common theme throughout the Gospel of John, it is the theme of belief/believing.

Here John makes it clear, they believed something special happened to Jesus... but they did not understand... yet...

- They did not “understand the scripture” that says this had to happen this way...
- They soon will.

Scripture like -

Psalm 16:10

***For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.***

And Jesus makes a reference to Jonah

Matthew 12:40

⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

BUT...*In this moment... they are still shocked. I GET IT!*

While there are differences in the three Gospel accounts, they are ALL consistent in...

- They came to an empty tomb
- Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene (a woman would not have been seen to be a respectable witness)
- The disciples did not believe at first.
 - They did not understand.
 - They did not connect with what Jesus told them
 - This was so far out of their thinking...

This story of how it all first unfolds for His followers after Jesus rose from the dead is real and relatable.

- The same things they struggled with... I am sure WE would have struggled with,

- There was no "crystal ball" or magic mirror
 - This was the most amazing miracle to have ever occurred
- The different angles and storylines from all the Gospels tell us more of an authentic record, than *if they were all exactly the same*. This is consistent with authentic testimony, it is honest –

Jesus will appear to all of them soon... (Though not yet in John's gospel).

Most of the Disciples eventually died a martyr's death for their testimony of a risen Jesus.

Key things for this Family Resurrection service -

- Jesus rose from the dead!
- Shocking news!

Jesus' people didn't know how to respond... some thought someone **took Jesus away**... they had **no clue** what happened! It was hard for all of them to believe...

John 20:9

"...for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead."

Keep reading... John speaks of the amazing events that follow.

Reading them with the other Gospels gives a wonderful picture!

Helpful tip...

You can **ask AI some very specific things** (like Perplexity or Grok) – and they can help you find stuff... **don't ask for interpretation, just ask what the Bible says...** then make sure you double-check to make sure for yourself.

AI is far from perfect, but as a tool, it can be helpful!

We only have time for these first 10 verses today... but we will continue next week!

Keep reading on your own, and come next week for us to compare notes!

You can bet there are many that have tried to stop this message since it started 2000+ years ago.

BUT - what I love is the deeper I dig, the more gold I find.

This is no "too good to be true" pill that will

- Make you lose weight,
- **Clear** your skin,
- Build your **muscles**,
- Improve your sleep OR
- **Make you feel like 25 again!**

SO much better than all those things... because of Jesus rising from the dead –

This news... too good to be true?

If it seems too good to be true... it must be God!

- We can have relationship with a perfect God
- He will see you as perfect, as He sees Jesus.

This comes by...

- **Believing Jesus is both the Son of God and God the Son**
- **Confessing your need for Him and His ability to save you**
- **Trusting in Him for your today... and your future**

I love the honest way in which we have these four Gospels...

We see...

John 20:10

Then the disciples went back to their homes.

This news... too good to be true?

If it seems too good to be true... it must be God!

Peter and John were just beginning to work this out...

NEXT WEEK...

While Peter and John went back home... Mary Magdalene lingered longer...

THAT is for next week ;-)

The AMAZING NEWS of the resurrected Jesus was just getting out there...

We will also be covering just how important the resurrection of Jesus was and STILL IS for us today...

Without the resurrection, we would have no hope for eternal life and true forgiveness for all of our sin and failure...

I am so grateful Christ is RISEN! He is risen INDEED!



If you have any questions about any of this today, please know I and others will be available for to talk, or just exchange email and we can talk later if needed...