

John 20 – 13 September 2026

“It’s Time To Believe The Evidence”

Introduction

*Jesus lived for about 37 years on this earth

*He taught a good way to live, but it was much more than that – He taught the only way to eternal life

*He performed miracles, but they were more than that – They were miracles that proved He is God

*His life was always destined to one end – to give His life as a ransom for many – to die on the cross

*Jesus has given us every reason to believe that He deserves the preeminent position in our hearts, in our minds, and in our lives

*Today, it’s time to believe the evidence

*It’s time to become a believer in Jesus

Today we see 4 reasons to trust Jesus with your life

#1 – For What He’s Done: He’s already performed miracles [Raising of Lazarus] (20:1-10)

Read 20:1 (Scene – The Empty Tomb)

1. Roman guards are nowhere to be found
2. It’s written that she was wondering how she’d move the stone
 - a. Great dedication, but is there faith?

Read 20:2

1. Mary is trembling, fearful & hasn’t settled into belief yet
2. This will be the challenge, to believe a miracle, to belief the impossible has just happened

Read 20:3-4

1. D. Guzik said it this way, “John was humble enough to not name himself, but competitive enough to say that he outran Peter”
2. In not going to the cross but going to the tomb, Peter shows that it was a failure of his faith and not the elimination of it

Read 20:5-10

1. There's a progression of pressing into the situation (3 different words for "see")
 - a. John, seemingly in awe, only looks from the doorway (vs 5)
 - b. Then Peter enters the whole way in to see or perceive (vs 6) the linen wrappings
 - c. Finally, John entered in to see, forming it solid in his mind and heart causing belief
 - d. Don't stop until you've allowed the evidence to form the belief in miracles for you
2. The linen clothes demonstrate intentionality
 - a. This wasn't caused by thieves or enemies & none of Jesus's earthly friends had the power or faith to do such a thing
3. The Shroud of Turin seems to be credible
 - a. With photography in the late 1800s, this became an available study to research
 - b. From the flax material to the exact size of it

- c. The type AB blood & wounds that's on it
- d. The image, seen by a photographic negative, is only 2 microns thick & *can't* be reproduced in any known way by a scientist
- e. It's no contradiction that the Bible says there was a separate face cloth (facecloth & this full body linen)
 - i. The Shroud of Turin is the full body linen
 - ii. The Sudarium of Oviedo in Spain could be the actual facecloth

#2 – For What He's Said: He's already said miraculous words that came to pass [Fig Tree] (20:11-18)

Read 20:11-13 (Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene)

1. Luke says 2 angels asked, “why are you seeking the living among the dead? Read Luke 24:4-6
 - a. Challenge now is to see how these events agree with what Jesus had already told them
 - b. Her crying isn't to be challenged, it's her statement, “I don't know where they laid him”

2. Don't miss the details, like the fact that Jesus was never in the tomb, his body was in the tomb (see John 19:38, 40)

Read 20:14-16

1. ***How*** did Jesus hide Himself from her momentarily?
 - a. His glorified body can conceal & reveal – to change forms & likenesses
 - b. On Road to Emmaus in Luke 24 He did this
 - c. Also remarked on in (Read) Mar 16:12
 - d. He also changed appearances at the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-29)
 - i. This is how He can appear as a slain lamb in Rev 5
 - e. Israel will look on Him whom they've pierced (Zec 12:10)
2. ***Why*** did Jesus hide Himself from her momentarily?
 - a. Jesus did the same delay with Emmaus men
 - b. He wants them to show their faith before they receive sight (Read Heb 11:6)

3. Jesus here rewards Mary b/c she sought for Him

Read 20:17-18

1. Mary intended to keep Jesus right there forever out of love
2. Jesus's instruction to not keep clinging to Him isn't about some impurity or trip to hell
 - a. It's simply that the mission isn't complete until He offers His blood on God's altar
 - b. Read Heb 9:12-14 – Once that happened, then we can come
 - c. Read Heb 10:19-20
3. Notice Jesus isn't speaking as God; He's speaking from His position as the 1st glorified man
 - a. My brothers; My God and your God
 - b. Read Heb 2:17-18 – He's now qualified to be our High Priest, our representation to God

#3 – For Who He’s Changed: Jesus has already shown power to change people [Demoniac] (20:19-23)

Read 20:19 (Jesus sees the Disciples)

1. There still hasn’t been a big turnaround of faith in these men
 - a. The two from Emmaus Rd had just told them moments ago that they saw Jesus
 - b. They were locked in “for fear of the Jews”
 - c. Mark 16:14 says after Jesus opened with “Peace”, He reproached them for their unbelief & hardness of heart to believe the ladies
 - d. Luk 24:39 says Jesus had to tell them that flesh & bone, like Him, can’t be a spirit
2. All in this 1st day, this Sunday, Jesus appeared to Mary M. & other ladies, the 2 of Emmaus Rd, now Peter & the other 9 (Thomas absent)

Read 20:20-23

1. To whom did Jesus give the Holy Spirit & the preaching of forgiven sins? It’s to *all* the disciples
 - a. We can’t say this is only for the 12 Apostles, b/c there’s only 10 of them present

- b. Indeed, many more than the 10 were there (Read Luke 24:33)
 - c. This commission is to all believers
- 2. The receiving of the H.S. will be their 1st of many fillings or empowerings (see Acts 1:8)
 - a. This couldn't happen before the resurrection (Read John 7:39)
- 3. The forgiving & retaining of sin is speaking of preaching on the issue
 - a. Look at how Peter understood & used these words just a month later (Read Acts 2:38)

#4 – For What He's Promised: Jesus has already promised to bless the faithful [Beatitudes] (20:24-31)

Read 20:24-25 (Jesus with Thomas)

- 1. What standard or level of proof do you need to believe a thing?
 - a. We shouldn't act on blind faith (no evidence like Mormonism)

- b. We also shouldn't wait until we have 100% evidence (that's no faith at all)
 - c. Without faith it's impossible to please God
2. Thomas is being unreasonable (maybe b/c of anger or sadness)

Read 20:26-29

- 1. Thomas received the further evidence that he wanted, but it removed the blessing of faith
- 2. You say, "What's the big deal? What's the blessing that he missed?"
 - a. It's the blessing of knowing how to live ***by faith*** based on evidence & not live only by full knowledge or sight
 - b. We must know how to use this principle throughout life – ***then*** we see the blessing
- 3. Jesus never denies the claim of His divinity
 - a. He accepts Thomas's claim of Godhood

Read 20:30-31

- 1. We've been given plenty of evidence & promises to believe Jesus is Christ, the Son of God

2. Why could the angels not be redeemed after their fall into sin
 - a. B/c they lived in full knowledge of God & *still* rebelled
 - b. If God gave us full knowledge of Himself & His plan to redeem us – then there is no faith
 - c. God's looking for those that will choose Him

Conclusion

If someone hasn't accepted Jesus as Lord, it isn't b/c the evidence isn't there – it's a choice to rebel

1. **We should believe for what He's done: He's performed miracles even raising Himself to life**
2. **We should believe for what He's said: He's fulfilled every miraculous word that He spoke**
3. **We should believe for who He's changed: Jesus has shown the power to change anyone**
4. **We should believe for what He's promised: Jesus has promised the faithful eternal life & He'll do it!**