

The Gospel According to John

“A New and Better Beginning”

John 20:1-18



John 20:1-5

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.

So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in.

John 20:6-10

And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.

So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

John 20:11-14

But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping;
and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;
and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head
and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.
And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”
She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid Him.”
When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus
standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

John 20:15-18

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.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.”

Main Point

On the first day of the week, Jesus, the new and better Adam, came forth from the grave to inaugurate a new and better faith built upon a new and better power.

A New Beginning

Matthew 28:1

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn
toward the first day of the week...

Mark 16:2

Very early on the first day of the week...

Luke 24:1

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn...

John 20:1

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene
came early to the tomb...

A New and Better Beginning

Peter and John:
A New and Better Faith.



A New and Better Faith

Evidence of the Eye

What was the evidence they could see?

The stone had been rolled away.

John 20:1

Mary...saw **the stone already taken away** from the tomb.

John 20:4-5

The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in...

What was the evidence they could see?
The linen wrappings were still lying there.

John 20:5-6

...and stooping and looking in, **he saw the linen wrappings lying there**; but he did not go in.

Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and **he saw the linen wrappings lying there...**

What was the evidence they could see?

The face-cloth was rolled up by itself.

John 20:6-7

Simon Peter...saw the linen wrappings lying there,
and **the face-cloth** which had been on His head,
not lying with the linen wrappings,
but **rolled up in a place by itself.**

What were the possible explanations?

A follower of Jesus had taken the body.

The Jewish leaders had taken the body.

Grave robbers had taken the body.

Jesus wasn't really dead and got Himself out.

Jesus had risen from the dead.

Peter and John saw the evidence,
and reason instructed them that
Jesus had not been taken away
by robbers or by anyone else;
and at a minimum, John believed.

John 20:8

So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and **he saw and believed.**

**But this was based on evidence of the
eyes...**

“Mary...saw the stone already taken away.”

“...he saw the linen wrappings lying there.”

“...he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the
face-cloth...”

“...and he saw and believed.”

“...she saw two angels.”

“she...saw Jesus standing there.”

“I have seen the Lord.”

**But this was based on evidence of the
eyes...**

“Because you have seen Me, have you believed?”

**But this was based on evidence of the
eyes...**

“Because you have seen Me, have you believed?”
“Blessed are they who do not see, and yet believe.”

A New and Better Faith

Evidence of the Eyes

An Incomplete and Inadequate Faith

John 20:8-10

So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and **he saw and believed.**

For as yet they did not understand the Scripture,
that He must rise again from the dead.

So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

John 20:8-10

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Luke 24:25

“O foolish men and slow of heart to believe
in all that the prophets have spoken!”

This seeing faith was an incomplete faith!

John 20:8-10

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then also entered, and he saw and believed.

For as yet they did not understand the Scripture,
that He must rise again from the dead.

**So the disciples went away again to
their own homes.**

John had seen the evidence of Jesus' resurrection and had believed, but his faith was still incomplete; and it was inadequate to move him and anchor him against all fears.

John 20:19

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and when the doors were shut where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews...

John 20:19

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and when the doors were shut where the disciples were,

for fear of the Jews...

Faith built upon evidence alone will not stand.

A New and Better Faith

Evidence of the Eyes

An Incomplete and Inadequate Faith

The New and Better Faith Needed

John 20:9

For as yet **they did not understand the Scripture**,
that He must rise again from the dead.

Luke 24:27

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets,
He explained to them the things
concerning Himself **in all the Scriptures**.

John 20:9

For as yet they did not understand the Scripture,
that He must rise again from the dead.

Luke 24:27

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets,
He explained to them the things
concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

The disciples had seen,
but they needed to hear!

Romans 10:11-14

For the Scripture says,

“Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed...” for
“Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved.”

How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not
believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have
not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

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not heard** ? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:17

So faith comes **from hearing**,
and hearing by the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing,

and hearing by the word of Christ.

Contrary to the cliché,
seeing is not believing.

The new and better faith, given
as a gift of God's grace, comes from
hearing the Word of Christ, the gospel.

A New and Better Beginning

Peter and John: A New and Better Faith.

Mary Magdalene:
A New and Better Power.



A New and Better Power

The power of her emotions.

John 20:1-2

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.

So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

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So **she** ran and came to Simon Peter and

to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and **said to them,**

**They have taken away the Lord out
of the tomb,**

and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

Moved by deep emotion,
Mary quickly concluded that
Jesus' body had been taken away
by someone; and she remained
unmoved by all the evidence.

John 20:11-13

But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping;
and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;
and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head
and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.
And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”
She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

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away my Lord,**
and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

John 20:14-15

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

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.”

John 20:14-15

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she said to Him, “Sir, **if you have carried Him away**,
tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

Strong emotions can be powerful
and deceptive and can blind
the eyes and govern the mind.

A greater power is needed!

A New and Better Power

The power of her emotions.

The power of her Shepherd's voice.

John 20:16

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!”
(which means, Teacher).

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John 10:3

and **he calls his own sheep by name** and leads them out.

John 20:16

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

**She turned and said to Him in
Hebrew, “Rabboni!”**

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John 10:3

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John 20:16

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

**She turned and said to Him in
Hebrew, “Rabboni!”**

(which means, Teacher).

John 10:3

...and the sheep hear his voice,
and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Her Good Shepherd spoke her name,
and she heard His voice and turned
and began to see and understand.

But she needed more.

John 20:17

Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me,
for I have not yet ascended to the Father...”

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Jesus said to her, “**Stop clinging to Me,**
for I have not yet ascended to the Father...”

Though Mary had seen Jesus and heard
His voice, she was still responding with
her emotions, clinging to Him in fear
that she might lose Him again.

A New and Better Power

The power of her emotions.

The power of her Shepherd's voice.

The power of her Lord's Word.

John 20:17

Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me,
for I have not yet ascended to the Father;
but go to My brethren and say to them,
‘I ascend to My Father and your Father,
and My God and your God.’”

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but **go** to My brethren **and say** to them,
‘I ascend to My Father and your Father,
and My God and your God.’”

Mary had to learn submission to Jesus’
Word as He commanded her to leave Him
and take His word to the Disciples.

Jesus' relationship with all those who had walked with Him fundamentally changed with His ascension.

From now on, it would be His Word that would be the new and better power.

Jeremiah 23:29

“Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD,
“and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”

The Word of Christ is like fire,
purifying the souls of men.

It is the hammer that shatters
our hearts of stone!

A New and Better Beginning

Peter and John: A New and Better Faith.

Mary Magdalene: A New and Better Power.

Jesus:
The New and Better Adam



1 Corinthians 15:45

So also it is written,

“The first *man, Adam, became a living soul.*”

The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”

**Jesus is the last Adam,
the new and better Adam!**

The New and Better Adam

The new and better Gardener.

Background

Genesis 2:15

Then the LORD God took the man
and put him into the garden of Eden
to cultivate it and keep it.

Adam was to be God's gardener.

John 20:15

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.”

John 20:15

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."

Though she had mis-taken Him, yet she was right:
Jesus is the new and better Gardener!

Consider

Adam was put into the garden alive to cultivate it and keep it but failed and was kicked out of the garden to die.

Jesus died and was put into a garden dead, but God raised Him to life to cultivate and keep all that is His, and He will not fail to do it.

He is the new and better Gardener!

The New and Better Adam

The new and better Gardener.

The new and better Brother.

Background

Genesis 4:8-9

And it came about when they were in the field,
that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?”
And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Background

Genesis 4:8-9

And it came about when they were in the field,
that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?”

And he said, “I do not know. **Am I my brother’s keeper?”**

John 20:17-18

Jesus said to her,

“...go to My brothers and say to them,
‘I ascend to My Father and your Father,
and My God and your God.’”

John 20:17-18

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John 20:17-18

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“...go to My brothers and say to them,

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and My God and your God.’”

Psalms 22:22

I will tell of Your name to my brothers;
In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

Consider

The firstborn Cain murdered Able,
taking his brother's life from him;
but Jesus, the firstborn of God,
allowed Himself to be murdered
to give life to His brothers.

Consider

He is the new and better Brother!

The New and Better Adam

The new and better Gardener.

The new and better Brother.

The new and better Ruler.

Background

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness;
and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over
the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

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the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Adam had been set over God's creation to rule,
but Adam failed and subjected God's creation
to corruption, including subjecting it to the
corruption of corrupt rulers.

But Jesus is the new and better Ruler!

John 20:18

“I ascend to My Father and your Father,
and My God and your God.”

Hebrews 1:3

When He had made purification of sins,
He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,
“All authority has been given to Me
in heaven and on earth.”

Jesus has ascended as the new and better Ruler and will not fail to discharge His duty to govern in righteousness and to restore all things anew.

Conclusion

Jesus came forth from the grave the new and better Adam, having inaugurated a new and better beginning, having obtained a new and better life for all who would believe in Him; a life free from all the corruptions of sin and death.

Conclusion

Have *you* experienced this new
and better beginning?