A photograph of an empty tomb. The interior is dark and cavernous, with rough, textured walls. A white cloth lies on the floor in the foreground. An arched opening in the wall leads to a bright, sunny outdoor scene with a path, trees, and a clear blue sky.

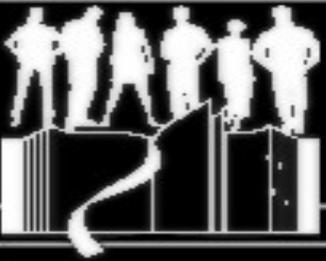
Looking for a Body...

John 20



John 20:

1 ¶ 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. 2 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." 3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. 4 The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;



John 20:1-9

5 and stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. 6 And so Simon Peter also *came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he *saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

A photograph of the interior of a tomb, likely the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The walls are made of rough, textured stone. In the foreground, a white cloth lies on the floor. To the right, a stone ledge holds a white cloth. The entrance is an irregular opening in the stone wall, leading to a bright outdoor scene with a clear blue sky, a large rock, and some vegetation. The text "Christ is Risen!" is overlaid in yellow on the right side of the image.

Christ is
Risen!

Peter's Look

- “They have taken away the Lord...”
- Peter and John hear and run to the tomb!
 - John only peeks, Peter runs right in!
- After his failure, he wanted to see the truth!
 - Grave clothing , face cloth rolled up...
 - EMPTY of Jesus!
 - John goes in, and believes... Peter is still “looking”

Peter's Look

- Seeing everything, but the body...
- Peter takes in the events, the facts
 - We often cannot see beyond our memories!
 - Peter knew how Jesus died...
- The promises of Jesus had not reached his heart...
- “they did not understand the Scripture...”



John 20:

13 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." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and *saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 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." 16 Jesus *said to her, "Mary!" She turned and *said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). 17 Jesus *said to her, "Stop clinging to Me,..."

Mary's Look

- She has had a long day!
 - Running back and forth from the tomb, telling news!
 - Now she is in conversation with angels!
 - “Why are you weeping?”
 - “they took Him”... “I will take Him away.”
- Mary looked right past the one she was looking for...

Mary's Look

- Mary sight was limited due to her grief
 - She was looking at the tomb instead of at the man
 - Jesus, alive, was right behind her...
- A single word changes her "view"
 - Rabboni!
 - "stop clinging to Me" ascending to the Father!



John 20:

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Thomas's Look

- By evening, the stories are overwhelming!
 - Where had he been all day? Wrong places!
 - Nothing he hears can move him...
 - "Unless I shall see..." "I will not believe."
 - Our eyes are not always clear!
 - 8 days later, he needs nothing but seeing Jesus!
 - "My Lord and my God!"

Your Look

- What do you see today?
 - It must be more than history!
- Let nothing keep you from seeing JESUS:
 - Not your past failures or sins! (Peter)
 - Not your grief and problems (Mary)
 - Not your doubts and unwillingness (Thomas)



FOR I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE:
HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE
WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE:
AND WHOSOEVER LIETH AND BELIEVETH
IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE.
BELIEVEST THOU THIS?

JOHN 11:25-26

