



The Gospel of John – Chapters 20 - 21 : Book Study
Resurrected Savior, Eternal God
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

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Resurrected Savior, Eternal God
Sunday September 09, 2025 – Sermon Outline

CHAPTER TWENTY: THE RESURRECTED SAVIOR

The tomb, the linen cloths, the handkerchief (John 20:1-10)

1 Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

2 Then 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 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw 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.

8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

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

10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

The first person among the disciples of Jesus to go to the tomb where Jesus was buried was Mary Magdalene. The large stone that sealed the tomb had been moved, the Roman seal across the tomb had also been removed, and the Roman soldiers had left their duty to guard the tomb – all before Mary Magdalene, Peter and John had arrived.

Mary seeing the empty tomb assumed that the body of Jesus had been removed to another place.

According to John 19:39–40, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea wrapped Jesus' body in linen cloths with about 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes (a sticky, resinous mixture). We know according to the Jewish burial practice at the time that the body was wrapped in strips of linen soaked or sprinkled with these spices. A separate head cloth was tied around the head/chin to keep the jaw closed. So, by the time the tomb was sealed,



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Jesus' body was tightly wrapped with linen strips impregnated with heavy spices. His head was wrapped separately with the face cloth. Remember, Lazarus, when he came out of the tomb, he was still all wrapped up!

When Peter and John entered the tomb, they saw the linen cloths lying there, the face cloth not lying with the linen cloths but folded and wrapped up in a place by itself.

This completely rules out any explanation of grave robbers. If someone had stolen the body they would not have unwrapped it (too time-consuming, messy), nor would they neatly folded the head cloth. The orderly state of the wrappings suggests something miraculous, not hurried theft.

We can try and imagine what Peter and John may have seen that morning. The spices would have hardened the wrappings, leaving them in the shape of the body, although now collapsed. So, Peter and John may have seen possibly something like a collapsed cocoon, with the linen wrappings lying there like a deflated shell, as though the body had simply passed through them without being unwrapped. Or, they may have seen something even more extraordinary, with the linen cloth wrappings left neatly in place. Additionally, they saw the head cloth (face cloth) carefully folded and kept aside by itself. All this conveyed order, intention and peace and would indicate a supernatural exit rather than human interference.

John saw all this and believed – believed that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead indeed! There was no question that his body had been stolen. That was not even an issue here.

I saw Him! He spoke to me! (John 20:11-18)

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 Then 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 Now 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?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."



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16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

Mary was still outside. The risen, resurrected Jesus appeared to Mary. She was commissioned to go and inform the disciples that Jesus had indeed risen and now as going to ascend to the Father.

John 20:17, Jesus told Mary not to touch Him, as He was yet to ascend to the Father. Later that same day, Jesus appeared to the disciples and showed them His hands and feet. What was different? Consider what must have happened. The book of Hebrews teaches us that *"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption"* (Hebrews 9:12). So, in those intervening days, Jesus ascended to the Father, entering the Most Holy place, obtaining eternal redemption for us. He then, visited and showed Himself alive to His disciples and many others over the next 40 days (Acts 1:3).

Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23)

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

What an amazing picture of the resurrected Jesus visiting His disciples. The doors were shut, and He came right into their midst and calmed their fears with His words "Peace be with you".



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Vs 21: He gave them His commission “As my Father has sent Me, I send you”. The Lord Jesus has authorized us to represent Him, and do His work, the same way the Father sent Jesus to represent Him and do the Father’s works.

Vs 22: He breathed on them. When God breathes on people He imparts something of Himself to man (Genesis 2:7). In the Garden God breathed and imparted His life into something He formed from dust. In this room Jesus breathed on them and imparted the born-again life, the life from above, that come through the Holy Spirit. The disciples had been born again at this instant.

Interestingly, even after Jesus breathed on His disciples saying “Receive the Holy Spirit” in John 20:22, He then commissioned them to wait for the promise of the Father (Luke 24:48-49; Acts 1:5), the baptism in the Holy Spirit for the enduement of power to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). In John 20:22 the disciples were born of the Spirit; they were born again. But they still needed to be baptized with the Holy Spirit to be empowered for service. This clearly shows us that being born again (born of the Spirit) and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are two distinct experiences for the believer. While these can happen at almost the same moment, normally we see that born again believers need to be instructed and led into receiving and experiencing the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Vs 23: Sometimes this verse is misunderstood. Remember, every Scripture has to be interpreted and understood in the light of the rest of Scripture. Only God can forgive sins. No one else has the power to do so. However, in giving us the commission and the presence of the Holy Spirit, we as His disciples have the power, the obligation and the opportunity to bring the wonderful gift of forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God, to people everywhere, through sharing the message of Jesus Christ with them. As the apostle Paul put this we are ambassadors of Christ and God is reaching out to the world through us to bring them back to Himself. *"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:24-29)

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.



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25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thomas had missed seeing Jesus on the day of His resurrection, when He had appeared to the other disciples. He must have surely heard the reports from Mary Magdalene and the others. Yet, being a very practical man, he just could not get himself to believe.

The Lord Jesus appeared again eight days later and spoke to Thomas inviting Thomas to touch Him. Thomas believed! This encounter with the risen Christ was so real, the man who once doubted, would give his life for what he had seen and believed. Another testimony to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus at this time spoke a blessing on all of us who would believe even without having seen Christ in His resurrected form.

Think about Christ's resurrected body. It was of a heavenly material that could have supernatural transportation, go through walls, and yet be visible, touchable and felt in the natural. It was of a material with properties we have no knowledge about. Our bodies will be like His resurrected body when He comes back for the Church (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2).

These are written that you may believe (John 20:30-31)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John the apostle points us to the fact that there were many other signs and miracles that Jesus did which were not recorded. But this Gospel has been documented by a man



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who was an eye witness and a first-hand account, so that people would believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God and experience eternal life through Him.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

Come and eat breakfast (John 21:1-14)

1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

In this closing Chapter John records a few more visitations and encounters with the resurrected Jesus.



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Peter decided to go fishing! Others joined in. Perhaps it was to get some food for the day. Perhaps it was to just stay occupied while they processed all that had been happening. We do not want to read too much into why Peter and the disciples decided to go fishing. The Lord Jesus appeared to them and performed a miracle He had done previously. They knew it was Jesus! This was His third appearance to His eleven disciples.

Simon, tend and feed my sheep (John 21:15-19)

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

This is a touching record of restoration and affirmation of Peter's calling. Jesus made the pointed effort to restore Peter, get Him to affirm three times of his love for the Master, and then points Him to a greater purpose and calling, to tend and feed the people of God. This speaks to us about the heart of the Master – always towards restoring and leading us into the fulness of what He has planned for us, in spite of our mistakes.

The Lord also foretells that Peter would be led to die a death of a martyr for Jesus Christ.

The disciple whom Jesus loved who reported these things (John 21:20-25)

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"



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22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Vs 20-23: An important lesson. God will work as He desires in His people. Our call is to follow Jesus and not be concerned in a wrong way about what God does and how He works in His people. In a right sense, yes we care and support each other along our journey of faith. But on the other hand, we do not compare, and we do not compete, with each other. As the apostle Pau stated although in a different context, *"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand."* (Romans 14:4)

Vs 24-25: The apostle John signs off once again affirming that all he recorded for us is truth, while reminding us that there were many more signs that Jesus did that have not been recorded.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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There is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Kindly read John 20-21 before the Life Group meeting*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.



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1, Based on the details presented by the apostle John in chapters 20 & 21, examine the authenticity of the resurrection – why it could not be a hoax or made-up story, but an unquestionable incident that requires our response.

2, Discuss what happened when Jesus met with His disciples in John 20:20-23, commissioning them, breathing on them and authorizing them. What insights can we draw from these.

3, Discuss Jesus interaction with Peter in John 21. What does this speak to us about the heart of our Lord and how do we apply this personally and as we relate to one another.

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/learn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

We study John chapters 20-21. We consider the details given to us by the apostle John regarding the resurrection of Jesus, all pointing to the authenticity of the resurrection. We also examine Christ's final interactions with His disciples and especially with Peter and what we can learn from these. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS

Gospel of John, John Book Study, John chapters 20-21, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

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