

## PART 2- KNOWING THE FATHER

- **V11-12** Mary so sad and confused she can't grasp what's happening, she doesn't even seem to grasp the fact that she's talking to an angel.
- **V13** Then She turns and sees the gardener.
- **V14-16** "Sir if you have carried him away tell me where you have put him and I will get him"
- Except it isn't the gardener.
  - She knew that voice. It couldn't be. Was it?  
It was! It's Jesus!!! "Rabboni- teacher!" (exact!)
- Facts. And here comes the interesting bit. **V17-18**
- Nearly all the way through John's gospel, Jesus talks about his Father. HIS Father. "I and the Father are one". "No-one comes to the Father except through me". "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father".
- But now his Father is Mary's father. His God is Mary's God.
- And Jesus' Father can be your Father.
  - You see Jesus has opened a doorway to God.
  - He's removed the blockage of sin that stops the way.
  - And when he rose he brought a new life.
  - KNOWING THE FATHER. Jesus is from God.
  - He's not any normal man. He's the Messiah.
- And he shows us the way to God. "whoever has seen me seen F"
- If he is the way to God "no-one comes to the Father except thr me"
  - Do you believe the facts? Do you know the Father?
- ▲ Famous rock guitarist Eric Clapton sung a song "my Father's Eyes"- because he'd never known his father (Canadian soldier), mum very young (in fact grew up thinking sister). Really hard thing- because we all need a father figure. Same for many ppl, never knew father.
- Perhaps craving a relationship with father figure, or a wife figure or a husband figure, or kids you long to have a "bestie"/BFF. Broken relns.
- But God is an amazing Father. The best daddy anyone can ever have who is always there for us. Provide. Protect. Comfort you.
- ☞ Do you know him as your father? Jesus is alive, and has opened the way, but you never will unless you come through Jesus. Let's pray.
- Song: Led like a lamb to the slaughter. **Let words sink in.** Pwr/Glory!

## Easter Sunday 20APR25 John 20:1-18

**20:30-31** *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- John wrote this book so we can know the **facts** about Jesus, **trust** in him and have **life**. Come to these verses **next week** w Johnny.
- Today we're going to look at John's true story of the resurrection in 2 **parts** under 2 **headings**:
  - Believing the Facts
  - Knowing the Father
- But before we do I think I should probably issue a health warning:
- **What we are about to see may seriously change your life!**
  - **Spark/GSMA (under7)**, love Bible stories. But don't forget kids, HMM? they aren't just made up stories, they are true!
  - Or maybe on a Sunday you go to **Trogs or CCHY** and you go along with it all, but POV (point of view) you do sometimes wonder if it's all really real. Me teen. Are you so convinced that you would act differently from your friends midweek?
  - Or perhaps you are an **adult**, and you're here today because someone brought you. You've got nothing against church, but if someone pushed you on it, you'd say "IMHO (in my humble opinion, I think dead people stay dead. it's just a story
  - Maybe you are a committed Christian and you can say "he is risen indeed hallelujah" and want to mean it, but TBH (to be honest- good to be honest in church!) you find it hard to be a Christian, because, well you weren't there, so you trying to trust an amazing God, but all you are experiencing at the moment is disappointments, feels like living in Easter Sat!
- Well please watch our re-enactment closely today because (**warning!**) what you are about to see may seriously change your life!

Let me say a **prayer**, and then Let's have our first reading (p1089). ACTORS Well acted. There's a lot of movement in this story. I love it.

- **BELIEVING THE FACTS.**
- Mary must have been so sad and confused. **V1.** (not mother- Madgala)
  - She was a disciple of Jesus, he had turned her life upside down, and not only had he now died
    - But stone rolled away! pic
      - it looks like graverobbers had stolen the body.
- **V2** So she runs John (who wrote this gospel) and Peter who probably wrote Mark's gospel (or at least dictated the words to Mark).
- So they race out to the tomb. **V3-4.**
  - Did you enjoy that?
- Well done Max outrunning dad. Does that normally happen?
- Now I just want to pause on this.
  - It's a lovely little detail
  - Why does John record it?
    - It actually happened.
    - It's eyewitness evidence. 2000 yrs ago. Race!
- These are the little details in the gospels that help me believe. FACTS!
- No we don't have a **video or photos** from 2000 years ago. (invented!)
  - But this is what you would have seen.
  - Because John is telling the truth. Look across to v35.
  - He tells us what we need to know.
- What did they see next. **V5.**
  - Well John gets there first.
  - He just peeks in from outside the tomb
  - V specific verb- stoop to see. Pic on screen.
  - It can't be graverobbers have stolen Jesus, because they would have taken the body, expensive linen & spices
- Then Peter arrives and he goes right into the tomb (probably can't act that today as it's a bit small!) **v6-7**
- Who wants to have a look. Pic on screen.
  - It says He sees strips of linen lying there, and the cloth that was from his head separated.
  - He should have expected a resurrection because Jesus and the Old Testament had predicted it, but no-one could believe that their hero Jesus would die, let alone rise.

- It's not easy to show this in a picture but very likely what Peter saw was a cocoon of linen in a human body shape.
  - Because the Jesus' body had 35 kilos of spices (that's 2 sacks of potatoes) packed into the graveclothes. Even if he had never died he would have had difficulty getting out of that.
  - But it **doesn't say that the graveclothes were cut.** That would be the only way to get a body out of the congealed spices and linen cocoon. **It doesn't say that they were in a pile on the floor as if someone had ripped them off body** (but as said, not that anyone would want a dead body- was the linen/spices)
  - Possibly looked something like this.
- But the cloth that had been around his head was separate, so Peter would have seen that there was no body there.
- John sees and believes. **V8. This was the moment for John.** Believed.
- Just an empty shell. As if Jesus' body had actually passed clothes.
- This is not like Lazarus who has had to be unravelled fr graveclothes.
- Jesus has come alive from the dead, and in the same way that he passed through closed doors, he passed through linen strips.
- **V9-10.** First part of reading. Q for you:
- **Q What's your opinion of the facts? Are there any other facts that help you believe J alive? Talk neighbour. Do you believe the facts?**
- Has anyone here been to Paxton Pits? It's a nature reserve. Seen this photo! Kind of funny. Talking about Lorry lifting up its body.
- Shd have put one in the garden that day- But raising of a body a fact.
- 1) Empty tomb and the graveclothes was enough for John to believe the facts that Jesus was alive.
- We can add to that that 2) his and countless millions of lives after his have been changed by the risen Lord Jesus.
- But there's more. 3) Mary is about to see Jesus alive from the dead... Let's have part 2 shortly, but first song.
- **BELIEVING THE FACTS.** We can tell everybody the facts.
- **Let's sing!** *Tell them, Tell Them tell everybody!*