

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Mar..... Phil 1:1-11 Link Up with Others
- 2) 13 Mar..... Phil 1:12-26 Lift Up the Gospel
- 3) 20 Mar..... Phil 1:27-2:11 Live Up to the Gospel
- 4) 27 Mar..... Phil 2:12-30 Light Up the World
- 5) 03 Apr..... Phil 3:1-21 Look Up to Heaven
- 6) 10 Apr..... Phil 4:1-23 Never Let Up
- 7) 17 Apr..... Col 1:1-20 Knowing the Truth
- 8) **24 Apr John 20:1-18..... Believing the Truth [Easter Message]**
- 9) 01 May..... Col 1:21-2:7 Expressing the Truth
- 10) 08 May..... Col 2:8-23 Keeping the Truth
- 11) 15 May..... Col 3:1-17 Be Focused
- 12) 22 May..... Col 3:18-4:18 Be Faithful
- 13) 29 May..... Philemon 1-25 Be Forgiving

INTRODUCTION

- Wouldn't it have been nice if John and the other Gospel writers had given us more than 1 or 2 chapters to the resurrection story in each of their books?
- We could better know the sequence of events instead of speculating who was there first and what did they really see
- Plus, we would be more enlightened. Right?

Passage	Comments
John 20:1-4	<p>Everybody is Running to and from the Tomb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. After Mary Magdalene visited the empty tomb she RAN to the guys to report her findings • v4. Peter & John RAN to the tomb to check it out • Do you think they were frantic, nervous, perplexed, scared, doubting, all of the above? • It was a good thing there were no TV cameras, cell phones, computers, radios, and the internet around at that time. The resurrection story would've truly been twisted and distorted beyond imagination. God thinks of everything!
20:7	<p>The Folded Napkin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to John Gill's Commentary, "<i>this was plainly the effect of thought, care, and composure; and clearly showed, that the body was not taken away in a hurry, or by thieves, since everything lay in such order and decency; and which was done, either by our Lord himself, or by the angels.</i>" • A rendition from the Internet. Some hold to a little known, but hearsay, tradition about how a servant waited on His mater at the dinner table. If the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. A wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done'. The servant would then know to clear the table. But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because..... The master was coming back! • I think the truth is closer to what is found in John Gill's commentary. The folded napkin would dispel any notion for a reasonable person that the Lord's body was stolen. God thinks of everything
20:5-9	<p>Who's Afraid of the Unknown?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. John, "the other disciple," hesitated going into the tomb for some unknown reason, possibly a little afraid and wanted to wait for backup

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6. Peter, sometimes a bull in a china shop, catches up to John and marches in to check it out • Is it OK to be like Peter – bold and reckless; or like John, overly cautious? Read 1&2 Peter and see how Peter matured in his ways over the years • vv8-9. John saw & believed, but v9 says they did not understand the Scripture that Christ must rise again from the dead. What John believed, then, was Mary's report of the Lord's body being gone • But why were the Disciples blind to the Scripture, especially when Jesus plainly told them numerous times that He must undergo suffering and death, and He would rise again after three days? • Aren't we the same way when people tell us things that are beyond our comprehension at first (like calculus) until we get to a point when it sinks in and we finally GET IT! It just takes time • Thank God for His patience with all of us
20:11-18	<p>Mary to the Rescue Again</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would Jesus make His first appearance from the grave to a woman with a shady past? • To Mary's credit, she watched her Lord suffer on the cross while His disciples went & hid.... 19:25 • A contrived story would've had Jesus appearing first to His disciples, and they would've been brave, bold and knowledgeable of all of scripture • Appearing first to Mary actually gives more credibility to the story. God thinks of everything!

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- We must realize God gave us all we needed to know about the Lord's resurrection for our faith to stand firm, and He provided sufficient wiggle room for those who do not want to believe to continue in their unbelief

NEXT WEEK: Col 1:21-2:7. Paul preached a mystery hidden from past ages and generations, and now it is given to us to disseminate, sometimes with much striving

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



The First Annual Empty Tomb Dash and John defeats Peter John 20:1-4