

John Chapter 20

As you read John Chapter 20 this week, I want these notes to simply be things to think about with each section. Some of the notes are things I've read, while others are simply some of the thoughts that I've pondered on while reading and trying to understand what is being revealed. Joey

I. John 20: 1-10

- A. Notice that the first thoughts are that someone has taken the body, not that Jesus has risen. No miracle is expected. This section reminds of the missionary stories I've read and the numerous miracles that take place, makes you wonder if the reason we never experience a miracle is because we never expect one.
- B. We notice that John and Peter run to the tomb, but John doesn't go in, but fitting to Peter's character he goes into the tomb. At the end of John 19 the question is asked about why would Joseph and Nicodemus come and request the body of Christ so close to Passover, knowing that touching the body would make them unclean for days. The answer given here is that they set aside their own personal agenda to concentrate on Christ. This offered me a contradiction to thought that someone stole or took the body of Christ, the Pharisees where so into the law that they wouldn't risk becoming unclean. As far Jesus' followers if there was a conspiracy you would think that two of His closest three would have known about it, and third the fear of what would happen to them would still be on their minds even Peter denied Christ three times.
- C. The folded napkin, while researching answers to significance of the folded napkins I found a couple of explanations but no documented historical evidence. The first story is that a slave would watch his master as he ate, if the master discarded the napkin and placed it a lump on the plate he was done and would not return, yet if he folded the napkin and placed it neatly to side he would return. I could not find proof of this Jewish custom, but did find that this is proper etiquette in today's restaurants. The second story was that a carpenter when done with a job would simply fold his sweat cloth and lay it at the sight of the project to let everyone know that he was finished. What do you think?

II. John 20: 11-18

- A. When Mary enters the tomb she sees two angels, one sitting at where the head of Jesus would be and the other at the foot. Yet she still doesn't believe He is alive, in fact she asked Jesus (whom she thinks is the Gardner) where Christ's body is at. When she hears Him call her by name, she knows that He is Jesus. "My sheep hear my voice. I know them. They follow me and I give them life eternal. They will never perish in this age. No one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10: 27-28.

III. John 20: 19-29

- A. Jesus enters in even though all entrances were locked, the first thing He does is to show them His hands and side. Two thoughts came to mind, the first was that Jesus wanted

them to know that He was not a ghost or a figment of their imagination. The second that seeing is believing, there could be no doubt that He was the risen savior.

- B. He breathes on them the Holy Spirit. Before His death, he told the disciples that a counselor would come to comfort them and then they would understand. Here I picture the one who breathed the stars into existence, breathing a new life/ understanding into the disciples. I get the picture of Peter getting his wish of being washed from head to toe, only this time instead of water it's with the Holy Spirit.
- C. For some reason Thomas was able to be there , and says the only way he will believe is if he places his hands on His scarred hands and touches His side. Yet when invited to touch the scars, Thomas refuses for he believes. Here Jesus blesses those who see without believing.

IV. John 20:30-31

- A. I have never considered the fact that John intended for this to be the closing chapter by the way it was written. It does make me hunger for more, maybe this could be what John was after, and maybe it was to create a hunger or thirst in us that only Jesus could satisfy. Or maybe he stopped simply because it was the end of his testimony and the rest is up to us to find.