

## The Meaning of the Resurrection of Jesus John 20:1-31

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*Read John 20:1-31 out loud and pray that God would give you spiritual light.*

1. What is the most surprising thing that ever happened to you?
2. The Jewish leaders of the time of Jesus (and many sceptics today) said that the disciples stole the body of Jesus (Matthew 28:12-13). What reasons can you find in John 20 that this was not the case?
3. In v.1 we read that these events took place on “the first day of the week”. Why would this day hold a special place in the Christian week (cf. Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2)?
4. Why is it significant that angels attended the resurrection?
5. v.9 speaks of the Scriptures attesting to the resurrection of Jesus. Which Scriptures do you think John has in mind? What would later enable the disciples to properly understand these Scriptures (cf. John 14:26; 16:13)?
6. In v.17 Jesus says to Mary that he had not yet gone back to his Father. How can you reconcile this to Luke 23:43 where Jesus said to the thief on the cross, “today you will be with me in paradise.”
7. How can you explain the transformation that took place over the disciples from v.19 where they were hiding for fear of the Jews to the Book of Acts where they were testifying boldly about Jesus?
8. v.19 What does “the doors being locked” and “Jesus came and stood among them” tell us about Jesus’ resurrected body?
9. Did the disciples “receive the Holy Spirit” in v.22? What is the relationship between this incident and Acts 2:1-4? How can you receive the Spirit?
10. Is Christianity based on fact or on faith? Read the account of Thomas (vv. 24-29) carefully to gain more insight.
11. What is surprising about Thomas’ proclamation in v.28? Have you seen hints of this in the rest of John’s gospel? Which statements and actions led up to this proclamation?
12. What is John’s purpose for writing his Gospel in vv.30-31? What does this mean for me and you?