

## What Mary Magdalene Saw

*John 20:1–18*

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April 5, 2026

**MAIN IDEA:** In John 20:1–18, the apostle John’s account of the resurrection, we see the first eyewitness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and we discover three compelling lines of evidence that prove the historical reality of this event.

### SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Empty Tomb (1-2)
- II. The Orderly Graveclothes (3-10)
  - A. What Mary, Peter, & John Saw (3-7)
  - B. What John Concluded (8-9)
  - C. What the Orderly Graveclothes Disprove
    1. “Jesus escaped from the grave under His own purely human power.”
    2. “Jesus’ disciples stole His body.”
    3. “Jesus’ enemies stole His body.”
- III. Jesus’ Bodily Appearance (11-18)
  - A. Mary was a surprising eyewitness
    1. She had a past (Lk. 8:1-2)
    2. She was a woman
  - B. Mary was a competent eyewitness
    1. She witnessed His crucifixion & death (Jn. 19:25; Mt. 27:55-56)
    2. She witnessed His burial & the location of the grave (Mt. 27:59-61)
    3. She was not expecting His resurrection (11)
    4. She was not gullible or suggestible (12-13)
  - C. Mary was the first eyewitness
    1. She saw Jesus (14)
    2. She spoke with Jesus (15)
    3. She confirmed Jesus’ identity (16)
    4. She touched Jesus’ body (17)
    5. She reported Jesus’ appearance to others (18)
    6. She was validated by over 500 other eyewitnesses (1 Cor. 15:5-10)

### ***How You Should Respond to Mary’s Testimony***

1. If you’re not a follower of Jesus, John is urging you to believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and for eternal life (20:28-31).
2. If you claim to be a Christian but don’t love Jesus, follow Him as your Teacher, and obey Him as your Lord, you’re not a Christian at all.
3. If you’re a genuine follower of Jesus, then like Mary...
  - a. Be strengthened in your faith by the evidence of the resurrection.
  - b. Remember what Jesus saved you from.

- c. Love Jesus with all your heart, mind, soul, & strength.
- d. Continue to follow & obey Him as your Teacher & Lord.
- e. Share your testimony of who Jesus is and what He's done for you.

**BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS:**

1. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 15:3–7. What key theological truths do we find in these verses? What does this passage teach us about Jesus' post-resurrection appearances? Why is it important that these appearances be documented?

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. How does John 20:1–18 strengthen our conviction about the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Is the resurrection a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith? (see Rom. 10:9–10; Phil. 3:7–10).
  
2. According to 1 Corinthians 15:12–14, what does Jesus' resurrection prove as it relates to our past, present, and future sins? Although Christ's resurrection is a one-time past event, why is it important for us to meditate on it today? Discuss.