*Read John 20:1-20, then the sermon, and afterwards Psalm 150. Check out the service at* [*www.fpcd.org*](http://www.fpcd.org)*.*

If you told Jesus’ story—what Jesus is all about; where would you start? What would you say? Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are each someone’s testimony or “story” of Jesus. Dub just told you John’s story of discovering the resurrection.

John was “the disciple Jesus loved.” That’s how he referred to himself.

Imagine Dub being John. He told John’s story. Mary Magdalene was one of John’s friends. They were in small group together, along with Peter. They were in Jesus’ small group.

Jesus was a spiritual leader; a Rabbi. They met all the time—probably even daily. So this morning of Resurrection Day, Mary went out to the tomb; John went out to see; Peter went out. Then, they went to find all the others and told them what they found.

If it had been today, they could have texted the others. They could have taken a picture of the empty tomb with their smartphone and sent it. It would have gone viral.

But they had only their eyes and ears for observation, only their feet for bearing the message. When the disciple whom Jesus loved saw the empty tomb, he believed, even though he had not seen Jesus.

What does it take for you to believe?

C. S. Lewis became a Christian when he discovered that there was more historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus than he had thought. His disbelief came at first because God did not answer his prayers. He turned away from God for years, even calling himself an atheist.

As a professor of literature, when he read pagan stories of a “dying god,” he wondered whether Christianity was just another myth of a dying god.

What would possibly make Christianity true?

But one day another professor who had a reputation for being “the hardest boiled of all the atheists” dropped by his office. T. D. Weldon casually commented that the historical evidence for Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection was really quite good. Lewis writes, “If he, the cynic of cynics, the toughest of the toughs, were not—as I would still have put it—‘safe,’ where could I turn? Was there then no escape?”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Little by little, these bits of knowledge from friends and colleagues built a case for the truth that Jesus was resurrected; that he was the Son of God.

After his conversion, Lewis insisted that myths in other religions shadow the Christian story because God reveals Himself to the world. We should expect to find glimpses of the truth about Jesus in many places. Lewis puts it this way, “[In the literature of cultures] some glimpse of that theme . . . the theme of incarnation, death, and rebirth [is present]. . . . It is not the difference between falsehood and truth. It is the difference between a real event on the one hand and dim dreams or premonitions on the other.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

In other words, God puts hints around the world, in many ways and shapes so that hearts and cultures may be drawn to the resurrection of Jesus.

But sometimes it is hard to grasp. It is hard for people to trust that “that’s the truth.”

How hard is it to believe someone’s word?

What if someone came to you and said they were a sales representative of say, Kirby vacuums, which are only sold door-to-door. Would you trust them? You might ask for credentials.

I’m sure you probably know the story of Frank Abagnale who shamelessly pretended to be a pilot, a doctor, and a prosecuting attorney.

Trust is sometimes low because we all have watched the news and we all know about rip-off artists.

On that first Resurrection Day, Peter and John went back home. Mary stayed at the tomb and cried. No one went to tell others. Yet this story has spread world-wide and has changed nations and countless people, as numerous as the sands of the sea.

How did they get from wondering at the empty tomb to so full of faith and assurance that Jesus was indeed God’s Savior? I am going to propose one thing this morning—and there are many reasons to believe this story is the truth that offers us eternal life. But let us look at one very important encouragement from the Scriptures.

Let’s begin by reading John 2:13-22. This is the story of Jesus clearing the temple. John puts it at the beginning to shape his entire book. Matthew, Mark, and Luke put it in its chronological place during Holy Week. It is strongly believed that Jesus cleared the temple after he came into town that week.

READ John 2:13-22

Did you notice: *Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God's house will consume me.”* (v. 17).

Let’s imagine them at home. They are thinking about the loss. Should they believe Jesus? How could they? Now his body is missing.

They think back over the week’s events and remembered how he cleared the temple. He was so concerned that the temple be used for prayer.

This provides a vital clue to grasping the new worship of God Jesus was bringing to the world.

The people’s church experience had become a ritual. That ritual of making a sacrifice was distracting; it had become a marketplace. God had in mind worship and prayer—close connection to Him. Relationship. God needs to be glorified.

It is not about striking a deal with God. Jesus wants people to have a relationship with God.

As they were thinking about the missing body, the disciples remembered the Scripture which said, “God’s Savior would be very zealous for God’s house.” Jesus passionately threw out the vendors and said, “Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”

He was removing barriers to the true worship of God.

What barriers are in your life that hinder your worship of God?

Jesus said, *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” He was speaking of the temple of his body.* (vs. 19, 21)

At the time, no one understood him. But did you notice:

*“After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said” (John 2:22).*

Here’s the important thing.

We are given two things to help us believe. One is the consistency and power of the Scriptures. As we learned at worship on Thursday night, at “The Living Last Supper,” and at Friday night’s Good Friday worship service, every bit of Jesus’ actions and words were predicted years before by the prophets and are in the Scriptures.

**Be assured Jesus is God’s Savior.** Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures to the “T.”

The second thing is the actual physical resurrection of Jesus. Jesus spoke that prediction in the temple when he turned over the table. Later, the disciples remembered it. Thus Jesus also predicted it.

“The disciples both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.”

Are you assured Jesus is God’s Savior? Are you looking for signs? There is great evidence right before us this day. As T. D. Weldon casually commented to C. S. Lewis that the historical evidence for Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection was really quite good, he believed.

Believe the Good News! Jesus is God’s Savior. HE IS RISEN!

AMEN



1. C. S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*, 224. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*, 128-130. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)