

J/ He is Lord

- **John 20v1-9 – The tomb is empty – “They have taken my Lord”**
 - Based on John's account alone, we might wonder if Mary had gone to the right tomb, but the other gospels show us that Mary was at the tomb on the Friday too.
 - What do you see of Mary's love and concern for Jesus here?
 - Mary uses the term “the Lord” to refer to Jesus. What do you think she means by this?
 - What do you notice about the arrangement of the cloths?
 - The “other disciple” is almost certainly John. What do you think John believes?
- **John 20v10-18 – Mary see the Lord**
 - The disciples gone, angels appear to Mary. How do the angels regard Mary?
 - Mary turns to see a man. How does he treat Mary? Why do you think it is at the use of her name that she recognises him?
 - Rabbi means teacher and Rabboni means “my teacher” and was used by Jews in prayer to God. How do you regard Jesus?
 - Jesus talks of going to his Father. You will recall that he has spoken a lot of this previously. It makes most sense if he is referring to his ascension. On this basis, it would seem that the “do not cling on to me” means that he is going to be around for a little while, so there is no need to cling on to him. It is a little curious from here though as it would seem that whereas before his death he was constantly with his disciples, he is now more appearing on occasions.
 - What does Mary do with the news of her encounter with Jesus? Do you have the same inclination to pass it on to other disciples?
- **John 20v19-25 – The disciples see the Lord**
 - We see something of the curious nature of Jesus' resurrection body: he enters the room through locked doors (different to before) and yet he shows them his scars (same body as before). In 1 Corinthians 15v23, Paul describes Christ's resurrection as the firstfruits of our resurrection. On this basis, what can we learn about our future resurrection bodies?
 - What does Jesus offer to his disciples? Do you need these gifts today? Jesus offers them to you, ask him for them and spend some time receiving from him.
 - The disciples are to go and “forgive” people's sins. But can't only God forgive sins? The Greek word for “forgive” means “send out” or “let go”. (so it could read “If you send out from anyone his sins...”) What do you think this means in practice?
- **John 20v26-31 – Thomas sees the Lord**
 - The confession in v28 is probably the climax of this gospel and hence John summarises the reason why he has written just afterwards.
 - Thomas is remembered by many as “Doubting”. Well he did for a week, but then he exclaims the remarkably personal confession “My Lord and My God”. Have you been through a time of doubt, or maybe you are going through one now. Look at who Jesus is and the evidence for his death and resurrection. Look at what he has done for you in the past. Receive his peace. Jesus wants you to believe and have the assurance. May God bless you with an increase of faith now. Speak that confession “My Lord and My God” out loud.
 - The whole reason for John writing this gospel is so that we might believe. Are you able to make the same confession as Thomas?

- **John 21v1-14 – Peter recognises the Lord**

- It is curious during the period between the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus how Jesus seems to come and go. Here, some of the disciples have resumed their fishing. Jesus appears to them where they are. Jesus comes to you today where you are – at home, in the workplace ...
- The disciples do not know who he is, but they follow the advice he gives. In doing so, Peter recognises the miracle and declares “It is the Lord”. In what way is Jesus ministering to you where you are at today?
- There is some deep assurance in all the disciples that this is the Lord (v12). This is the role of the Holy Spirit in us to give us assurance and faith (eg 16v13). Seek more of the assurance of the Holy Spirit in you today.

- **John 21v15-23 – The Lord commissions Peter**

- Do you remember that Peter denied Jesus three times (18v15-27)? Peter is given the opportunity to three times declare his love for the Lord. Have you let the Lord down? The Lord is gracious and compassionate and wants to give you another chance. Will you declare your love for him today?
- Jesus uses two different Greek words for “love”. “Philew” is brotherly love and indicates a certain affection and is emotional, “agape” is a love of commitment of seeking the other’s best interest. Both of these types of love are appropriate for our regard towards Jesus. Do you feel an emotional attachment to him? Ask for more by his Holy Spirit! Are you all out committed to his interests, laying aside everything else? Ask for more by the Holy Spirit and speak your commitment out to the Lord now.
- This love for Jesus is going to lead Peter to care for Christ’s sheep, and this in turn will lead to suffering and difficulty and death. Are you prepared to be obedient to the Lord at all costs?
- Your relationship with the Lord is about you and Him. We are easily distracted by where others are at. Rumours easily spread too based on a small piece of incomplete information: let’s guard against such.

- **John 20v30-31 & 21v24-25 – This is written so you may believe.**

- And so John finishes his record of the events of Jesus. He could have written much more, but has selected what he has written for the good of his reader.
- What are your conclusions based on this gospel?
- What are you going to do about this conclusion?