

Mary Peter and John
(John 20)

On the first day of (weeks) Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus love, and said to them, they have taken way the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him. Upon this, Peter and the other disciple came out and they went toward the tomb, and they came running together, but the other disciple out ran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. And stooping down, he saw the linen lying there, but he did not enter. Then Simon Peter came up, following him, and went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there; but the burial napkin which had been around Jesus' head was not lying with the other linen cloths, but was rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, went in too; and he saw and was convinced and believed (John 20: 1-8).

“On the first day of weeks” is the first Sabbath of the series of seven Sabbaths, as it constitutes the days to Pentecost, as we read in Leviticus 23: 15, And you shall count from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the **sheaf of the wave offering**, seven Sabbaths; [seven full weeks], as it should have been translated, not “on the first day of the week”. The **waving of the sheaf before the Lord, speaks of resurrection**, the prophetic resurrection of our Lord. So when YAHSHUA died he fulfilled this part of the law also.

On that day, Mary, the woman from whom YAHSHUA had expelled seven demons, came to visit the tomb where He had been laid. She was forever grateful to Him for her freedom from those tormenting demons. Many had been cured and delivered, but none had shown so much gratitude to YAHSHUA, as Mary from Magdalen had done. With His death her heart was torn and depressed. Now she had come, not that she had hoped He would be alive, but to be near Him. Her hope was shattered when she could not find Him. The tomb was open, the stone that held it secured was removed. Blinded by her unbelief or ignorance, she ran to tell the disciples, Peter and John the news. “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him!” The Lord’s body was gone and she did not know where He would be. What a breath of hopeless! She remained there sobbing the disappearance of her Lord, while the disciples came and went.

John and Peter ran to the tomb to see for themselves what she had told them. John, having arrived at the tomb first did not enter the tomb. He saw everything just by stooping down. He had seen the evidence of what Mary had told them. Peter, on the other hand, went in. He seemly had a reason to go in, due to his denial to have known the Lord. He noticed an important detail: the burial napkin was not lying with the other lines cloths. It was rolled up in a place by itself (vs.3-7). Why was this detail registered if it were not significant? I believe it proved no one had taken his body away, as Mary thought and the rulers of Israel assumed; it proved His resurrection and His future return to take His position of King of kings; it proved the work of redemption He came to do was finished; it proved His power over death; it proved He is alive forever more.

While Peter and John went in and saw the evidence of YAHSHUA'S resurrection, John, it was said, to have believed after what he had seen. Nothing was said of Peter. He had to be reinstated by the Lord for the resurrection of the Lord to have any significance in his life. Mark reports that the angel told the women, Tell the disciples and Peter... so we have here that he is at that time been exempted from those who followed YAHSHUA. He had done that to himself when he denied the Lord. Now he had seen the evidence of the Lord's resurrection with his physical eyes, not with his spiritual eyes to have believed. The cloud of guilt had taken over him earlier, until the Lord looked at Him, and he recalled His words, Before the cock crows today, you will deny Me thrice, when he went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:61,62). That's true that he had an eye encounter with the Lord before His death, but not yet after His resurrection. Peter's life was going to change after his encounter with the resurrected Lord!

The disciples went home after they had seen the empty tomb, but Mary remained there; the disciples were in too much of a hurry to have stayed there comforting Mary. They were concerned with their own uncertainty of the future, now that their Lord was gone. They had probably forgotten the Lord's word to wait for Him in Galilee after He had been risen from the dead. As she was sobbing, the Lord sent angels to tell her of His resurrection. After that she saw her Lord, but did not recognize Him until He called her by name. For having stayed there, she was given the privilege of being the first to see YAHSHUA after His resurrection. He had come to her to comfort her in her grief and assure her that He was alive. Mary's love for her Lord sprang into a relationship that guided her life of obedience. Now her message to the disciples was "I have seen the Lord!" Meanwhile the disciples stayed hiding behind closed doors, afraid of the Jews because they had not believed the words of YAHSHUA before His death: Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in Me; I will not leave you orphans; I will come [back] to you (John 14:1,18).

YAHSHUA is gone to heaven, but His Spirit is in all those who believe in Him. His word is available to us, if only we would take the time to be in relationship with Him through the reading of it. Mary stayed in the place where she would receive the answer to her doubts and confusion. This place for us today is in the word of God. While the world is running in a fast pass, we must remain fixed in His word to be restored and strengthened, just like Mary did for the love she had for her Savior and was rewarded above what she asked.

THINK ABOUT IT!