

Knowing Jesus as Resurrected
John 20 Discussion Questions
5/28/17

1. The first reaction to the resurrection is Jesus' followers were not expecting this to happen. For example, Mary Magdalene asks where His body has been **placed (v.2 & v.13)**. **Mark 16:1** tells us she was planning to anoint His body with spices. Since Jesus told his followers he was going to die and rise again (for example, see **Matthew 16:21**), why do you think His followers were not expecting this to happen?
2. Given that His followers were not expecting His resurrection, should this increase or decrease our confidence in the truthfulness of this story? Explain.
3. Why should our confidence in this account be strengthened since Mary was the first eye-witness to the empty tomb and to the risen Christ? Does this encourage you?
4. Jesus' resurrection guarantees his second coming and our resurrection (**1 Cor 15:20**). What can we learn from these first disciples about expecting Christ to do what He has said He will do? Do you think most Christians live with an anticipation of Christ's coming?
5. The second reaction to the resurrection is superficial belief. John says that he believed when he saw the grave clothes, but his belief was not yet based on the Scripture (**v.9**). Explain what John means by this? Why was it important that he understand the bigger picture?
6. What are some examples of how a person might believe in the facts of the resurrection of Jesus but might not fully grasp the bigger picture? Are there ways in which you have grown and matured in your understanding of the significance of the resurrection?
7. Do you agree with the statement that was made that the extent to which we think about the death and resurrection of Jesus is most likely a reflection of the extent to which we understand the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus?
8. The third reaction to the resurrection is fear (**v.19**). Why do you think the disciples were fearful at this point? Jesus appears to them and gives them a mission. Explain **vv.21, 22, and 23**.
9. When we read Acts, we discover these disciples are no longer fearful (for example, **Acts 4:12 & 20**). What caused these disciples to change from fearfulness to fearlessness?
10. What are some ways you have become more fearless as a result of understanding the significance of the resurrection of Jesus?
11. The fourth reaction to the resurrection is skepticism. Thomas demands evidence and Jesus gives him evidence (**vv.27-29**). There are times when people demand evidence and signs and Jesus doesn't give it to them. Why do you think he is willing to provide evidence to Thomas and the disciples at this point?
12. Jesus says we are blessed when we believe even though we haven't seen (**v.29**). Do we have good reasons to believe in the resurrection even though we haven't seen? What are some of the key evidences that have helped you to believe in the resurrection? What are some of the key pieces of evidence that lead people to believe?