

Study Guide for April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Easter Sunday! An Unlikely Witness: John 20:1-18.

Introduction: Describe your experience of giving testimony in some official setting?

John's account of the resurrection, while different from the other Gospel writers, is fully complementary. He chooses to focus on personal encounters with the resurrected Savior.

I. Confused and in the dark. (John 20:1-2)

- A. Jesus had predicted his resurrection on the **third** day (Matt. 12:40; 16:21; 20:19), why then does John describe this as the **first day of the week**?
- B. John states that **it was still dark** when Mary went to the tomb. The other writers all state that it was **early in the morning** or **just after dawn**. What is John's point?
- C. What does Mary discover?      Who does she inform?      What does she report?
- D. When was the last time you realized that you had been **in the dark** on some matter?

II. Left behind and still ignorant: (John 20:3-9)

- A. How do Peter and the other disciple (John) respond to Mary's report?
- B. Who arrives first?      What does he do?      What does he observe?
- C. Who gets to the tomb second?      What does he do?      What does he observe?
- D. Describe the faith of the unnamed disciple (John) at this point. (See John 20:30-31)

III. Left alone and not aware: (John 20:10-15)

- A. Where do Peter and John go?      What does Mary see, and not see, within the tomb?
- B. What do the angels ask Mary?      What explanation does she give? (See vs. 2)
- C. Who does Mary encounter standing next to her?      Who does she assume him to be?
- D. Compare Jesus' question (vs. 15) to that of the angel's (vs. 13). What can we learn?

IV. Called by name and commissioned: (John 20:16-18)

- A. When does Mary finally recognize Jesus?      Relate John 10:3-4 to this encounter.
- B. Why does Jesus warn Mary not to **hold on to me**?      What has changed from before?
- C. What does Jesus tell Mary to do?      What is Jesus telling you to do from this story?