

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What truth from this text did the Holy Spirit speak most to you this Easter morning? How does it adjust your perspective, your faith, or your actions?
- What were Joseph and Nicodemus able to do about death in the burial scene? What might this tell us about the power of death compared with our own power?
- Do Joseph and Nicodemus expect Jesus to be out of the tomb in a few days? Why or why not?
- Explain Mary's response to seeing the stone rolled away? Why do you think she immediately thinks, "they have taken the Lord out of the tomb"?
- What about this tomb scene is inconsistent with the idea of someone stealing the body away?
- Do you think John is communicating anything theological (about what God is doing) through by mentioning the garden location of the tomb and the mistaken identity of the garden keeper? Why or why not?
- In John 20:20, why do you think the disciples moved from fear to rejoicing so quickly? What changed their perspective? The Jews certainly were just as ready to deal with followers of Jesus (as Acts will show).
- Do you think Jesus may have intended for us, in this scene of breathing on the disciples (20:22), to think back to the garden of Eden when God breathed into the man he made the breath of life? Why or why not?
- Read and discuss the meaning of John 11:25-26.

The Garden Maker

Jerry Cisar— Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

Text: John 19:38-42

I. Majestic Burial

A. Who is this in the tomb? Do you recognize Him?

- i. John 1:1-14
- ii. John 1:29-31
- iii. John 1:41-49
- iv. John 3:1-2
- v. John 4:39
- vi. John 5:11
- vii. John 9:25

B. A Scene of Ironies

- i. Joseph of Arimathea
- ii. Nicodemus

a) Psalm 45:6-8

The best money, power, and religion itself can do against death is try to cover the stench, but it cannot save you from death.

II. The Missing Body (20:1-9)

A. "They have taken the Lord..."

B. Simon Peter and John

C. Some curious details...

III. Mistaken Identity (20:10-18)

A. A garden tomb...

B. Thinking he was the garden keeper...

IV. Mysterious Guest (20:19-23)

A. Disciples in hiding

a) 20:20

The best money, power and religion offered could only cover the stench of death, but now there is life that conquers the grave.

B. The Garden Maker breathes life again.

i. He breathes His Spirit into them, the Spirit of life, the Holy Spirit, who comes not only forgiving sin, but spreading the forgiveness of sins through them.

ii. These are garden keepers restored... the apostolic company bringing us the Gospel to free us from our death.

C. The One who said, "*I am the resurrection and the life,*" is no longer dead!

Conclusion: John 11:25-26

A. "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me **will live, even though he dies**; and whoever lives and believes in me **will never die.***"

B. **Converse:** "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who doesn't believe in me **will die, even though he lives**; and whoever dies and doesn't believe in me **will never live.***"

C. "*Do you believe this?*"