

The Gospels

THE ZENITH OF CHRIST'S LIFE

Z

John knew the other gospels' claim that women came to the tomb at dawn, when it was light. But he purposely said Mary came in the dark. He does this to convey the spiritual reality that whoever does not see (know) the resurrected Lord stumbles in darkness and death.

Throughout the Gospel of John, the author uses the word *see* as a metaphor for *faith*. In his resurrection account, John uses three words for *see* that describe what is happening with Mary, John and Peter. Only John and Mary eventually see right and believe.

The reZurrection is the zenith of Jesus' life and ministry.

1. Mary's experience with the risen Lord:

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance ... [after recognizing the resurrected Jesus] Mary went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!'" — John 20:1, 18

2. John's experience with the resurrected Lord:

"[John] bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter ... saw the strips of linen lying there.... Finally [John] went inside. He saw and believed." — John 20:5-6, 8

3. The resurrected Jesus' words in the garden of Easter Sunday:

"Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" — John 20:17

In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses the term Father for God about 120 times. In all of them, before the resurrection, Jesus says, "My Father," or "the Father," never insinuating He was anybody else's Father. But in the last use of Father (John 20:17 above), after His death and resurrection, Jesus says, "your Father," to Mary and the disciples. The death and resurrection of Christ won for us the possibility of being a child of God and brother to Jesus. His death and resurrection were His signing of the adoption papers, making it official.

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full adoption to sonship [and daughtership]. — Galatians 4:4

"In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons [and daughters] through Jesus Christ." — Ephesians 1:4-5

**The
Gospels**

**THE ABCs OF THE
GOSPEL STORY**

**A - Z
Review**

- A** Annunciation
- B** Birth
- C** Coronation
- D** Desert Temptations
- E** Evening Encounter
- F** Full-Time Followers
- G** Galilean Ministry
- H** Healings
- I** I Am
- J** Jewish Opposition
- K** Kingdom Teachings (parables)
- L** Lost Son
- M** Mountain Messages
- N** Nain Miracle
- O** Open Mouths Filled
- P** Peter's Confession
- Q** Questions of Divinity
- R** Raising of Lazarus
- S** Sunday of Palms
- T** Temple Cleansing
- U** Unhappy Night (Maundy Thursday)
- V** Vanishing Acts (Garden of Gethsemane)
- W** Whips and Witnesses (trial)
- X** EXecution
- Y** Yll at the G