



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 20:1-18
From Sermon 6.15. 25

Read *John 20:1-18*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Jesus' undeniable death and burial have set up the miracles of miracles—resurrection from the dead/the conquering of the grave. This is the apex. The resurrection is God's stamp of approval of Christ's completed mission and in accepting Jesus' death on behalf of the elect. The tomb was indeed empty and now Jesus begins to appear to His followers in His glorified state. This changes everything for those involved. Additionally, His critics and enemies must fabricate explanations.

1. Review and Discuss: The many false theories about the cross, burial, and resurrection.

- Stolen Body—see *Matthew 28:12-15*. Adopted first by the Jews/Jewish leaders. Also widely accepted by the unbelieving world.
- Swoon Theory—The idea that Jesus didn't die on the cross but was only gravely injured and unconscious. This implies that, alone and without care, He somehow recovered from His wounds and was seen alive because He never died.
- Wrong Victim—the believe popularly held by Islam. It wasn't Jesus on the cross, but someone else (Judas). Therefore, if He's seen alive on Sunday, it's because another person died Friday/Thursday.
- Wrong Tomb—Mary Magdelene, the Apostles, and others just went to the wrong tomb on Sunday morning—a new tomb with an open door, right next door, and Jesus is still dead somewhere.
- Jesus was seen as Spirit only—the doctrine held by Jehovah's Witnesses. No bodily resurrection.
- Just never happened: Myth.—the common belief of academia, critics, & Hollywood.

2. Re-read *John 20:6-7*, as it describes the position and condition of the grave cloths. How does this simple, seemingly insignificant fact disprove many of the false theories from above? No one stealing the body would 1) unwrap it and carry it out naked. 2) take the time to neatly fold and lay out the cloths. 3) the wrong body would have been decomposed and the grave cloths putrefied.

3. In the last century and a half, there's been a sweeping, powerful movement to present a historical, human Jesus, but to deny all His deity and all the miraculous. What does Jesus become then in this scenario? Man only. Just another martyr in history who died before his time. A philosopher and social justice advocate.

4. Read *1 Corinthians 15:3-6 & 14-19*. List and discuss the many consequences of an Unrisen Christ.

- Empty Faith/Meaningless Worship
- We are Deceived Liars
- We are Still Under the Law and In Our Sins
- Those Who Went Before Us are Lost
- Hopelessness
- Pitiful

5. The impact of the Appearances. Read ahead *John 20:19*. Now read *Acts 3:11-15 & 4:1-2*. What radical change occurred in the Apostles? They instantly went from scared, doubting mourners to bold, assured evangelists, no longer fearing arrest, punishment, or death. Not one resurrection witness ever recanted or wavered in their testimony.