

problem:

*at first glance it may seem this is a story of seeing
when in fact it is a story of believing*

Main Idea:

*They saw His dead body
They saw His empty tomb
They saw His risen body
and believed the Scriptures*

Text:**They saw His dead body**

John 19:38 ¶ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was **a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews**, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his **body**.

John 19:39 **Nicodemus** also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of **myrrh** and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.

John 19:40 So they took the **body** of Jesus and **bound it in linen cloths** with the spices, as is the **burial** custom of the Jews.

John 19:41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden **a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid**.

John 19:42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the **tomb** was close at hand, they **laid** Jesus there.

(39) spices and linen - nicodemus and Joseph were working together - Mk 15:43-46;

Myrrh - a huge amount fit for a king -

(41) a new tomb - (isaiah 53:9)

(42) close at hand - three days - Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34 - they believed -

what gave them such courage? - Jn 3:1-21 - (the Word Jn 3:9-11)(Jn 3:21 and their works were carried out in God)

Nicodemus searched - Jn 7:45-53 -

and believed the Word -> 8:26-28

They saw His empty tomb

John 20:1 ¶ Now on the first day of the week **Mary Magdalene** came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and **saw** that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

John 20:2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, **“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”**

John 20:3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.

John 20:4 Both of them were running together, but the **other disciple** outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

John 20:5 And stooping to look in, **he saw** the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

John 20:6 Then Simon **Peter** came, following him, and went into the tomb. **He saw** the linen cloths lying there,

John 20:7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the **linen** cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

John 20:8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and **he saw and believed**;

John 20:9 for **as yet they did not understand the Scripture**, that he must rise from the dead.

John 20:10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.

The Scripture - Jn 19:24, 28, 35-36 - their witness through the Scripture

—> They believed because of the Scripture Jn 2:21-22; 12:16

They saw His Risen body

John 20:11 ¶ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept **she stooped to look** into the tomb.

John 20:12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.

John 20:13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

John 20:14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

John 20:15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

John 20:16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). *(my sheep know my voice - Jn 10:3)*

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers *(He calls these towards brothers)* and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene went and **announced** to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord”**—and that he had said these things to her.

John 20:19 ¶ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

John 20:20 When he had said this, **he showed them** his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

(“Those whose sins you forgive have already been forgiven; those whose sins you do not forgive have not been forgiven.”)- power to proclaim forgiveness due to faith

John 20:24 ¶ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.

John 20:25 So the other disciples told him, **“We have seen the Lord.”** But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

John 20:26 ¶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. **Do not disbelieve, but believe.**” *(imperative - stop not believing)*

John 20:28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” *(he did not all the sudden see Him but believed the truth about Him)*

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”

(16) Mary my sheep my voice - Jn 10:3

*Thomas did not all the sudden see Him but all the sudden believed the truth about Him...
(22, 29) The Scripture is what caused their belief - Jn 14:26 -> Luke 24:13-27, 44-49 (went from hiding here to Acts 18:28 boldly proclaiming Scripture)*

and believed the Scripture

John 20:30 ¶ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not **written** in this **book**;

John 20:31 but these are **written** so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

why in the presence of the disciples? why not before unbelievers? (exodus - golden calf)

implication: *faith does not come from seeing - Matt 28:16-17; (even for the disciples) (even for Israel - golden calf)*

Faith comes from hearing - Jn 5:37-40; 8:31-32; (Rom 10:11-17; 1 pet 1:3-9)

Application: *The Word is able - 2 tim 3:14-4:4 -so share the news*

Implication:

faith does not come from seeing

faith comes from hearing the Word of God

Application:

2 Tim 3:14-4:4 - the Word is able - share the good news

Read the following articles for further study:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/when-youre-more-blessed-than-mary>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-63-believing-seeing-seeing-not-believing-john-1138-57>