



The Napkin is Still Folded
John 20:1-7

The Burial of Jesus

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

- (1) They washed His body
- (2) Wrapped it in white linen
- (3) Folded His arms over His chest
- (4) Closed His eyes
- (5) Kissed His cheek
- (6) Placed a napkin over His face

John 20:1-7

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. ² Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. ³ Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. ⁴ So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. ⁵ And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. ⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, ⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Jewish Culture

Meaning of the Folded Napkin

- Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.
- The servant would then know to clear the table.
- For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, “I’m done”.
- But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because the servant knew that **the folded napkin meant, “I’M NOT FINISHED YET.”**
- **The folded napkin meant, “I’M COMING BACK!”**

Jesus Was Not Finished

- In **John 19:30**, Jesus said, “It is finished.”
- He did not say, “I am finished.”

Jesus was Raised on the Third Day

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** – “Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Witnesses of the Resurrection

- **1 Corinthians 15:5-8** - and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Jesus is Not Finished Saving Souls

- **John 3:17** – “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
- **Acts 4: 12** – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
- **John 10:10** – “. . . I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Everyone Needs Salvation Through Jesus

- **No one exists who's so bad they CAN'T be saved**
- **No one so good they don't NEED to be saved!**
- **Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."**

Jesus is Not Finished Reclaiming Those Who Have Erred From the Faith

- **Mark 16:7** - But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

Jesus Restores Peter

John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Rescue the Erring One

- **James 5:19-20** - Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Jesus is Preparing a Place for Us He is Coming Again

- **John 14:1-3** - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.