JOHN WILTON III
jwilton@mac.com

SEEKING JESUS

Visuals With Points To Ponder
To Help You Find Jesus' Principles

TO SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE UNDER HIM, SEEMS THE BEST WAY TO FIND HIM.

THIS BOOK CONTAINS MANY OF MANY OF MY PERSONAL TO CHURCH HISTORY AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND REFLECT CERTAIN PERSONAL, AND AT MOMENTS THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT SEEKING

PLEASE NOTE: If you have questions contact this PDF file, please contact: jwilton@mac.com

SEEKING JESUS

JESUS CHRIST, THE SPIRIT WORLD & RESURRECTION

THE BURIAL

Before we discuss the Savior's resurrection, let's linger for a moment on the burial of Jesus Christ.

Think of what it must have felt like for Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, these followers of Christ, to take his body down from the cross.

Can you just imagine what that might have felt like?

What they experienced?

CONSIDER

Joseph of Arimathea

He was a member of the Jewish Council, a prominent member of society. John tells us that he was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews. Once Pilate condemned Jesus to death, anyone who was friends with Jesus could be in danger. With Christ gone, it would have been easy for Joseph to retreat from following Jesus. But notice that Mark says,

Joseph "went boldly" to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus (Mark 15:43)

Pietà (Italian for "pity") is a term used for a work of art showing the Virgin Mary mourning her son, Jesus, after his crucifixion. Pietà is also known as the Lamentation of Christ.

Can you see how that was brave? It would have been easy for Joseph to say, "Since Jesus is dead, I'm not going to associate myself with him."

But instead, he publicly went to Pilate and demonstrated his connection to Christ.

QUESTION

Where did Christ's disciples go after Christ's death?

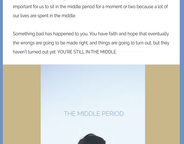
Actually, they didn't go anywhere. We know this because they were still around Sunday morning for the resurrection. Consider metaphorically the fact that Christ's disciples stayed near the tomb. In their lives, Friday was a tragedy. Jesus was crucified and that was not something they were planning on. Sunday would be the triumph, when Jesus was resurrected, also something that they were not planning on.

BETWEEN THE TRAGEDY AND THE TRIUMPH, WAS THE MIDDLE PERIOD

TIMELINE

Sometimes we jump straight from the crucifixion to the resurrection. Maybe it's important for us to sit in the middle period for a moment or two because a lot of our lives are spent in the middle.

Something bad has happened to you. You have faith and hope that eventually the wrongs are going to be made right, and things are going to turn out, but they haven't turned out yet. YOU'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE.



CONSIDER

What you do when you're in the position of those early disciples?

Max Lucado asks believers,

"When it's Saturday in your life, how do you react? When you are somewhere between yesterday's tragedy and tomorrow's triumph, what do you do?

Do you learn God—or do you forget your lesson?"

In this critical moment, many of the Savior's followers stayed—setting a powerful example for each of us.

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin declared,

"EACH OF US WILL HAVE OUR OWN FRIDAYS—those days when the universe itself seems shuttered and the shards of our world lie littered about us in pieces. We all will experience those broken times when it seems we can never be put together again.

We will all have our Fridays. But I testify to you in the name of the One who conquered death—Sunday will come. In the darkness of our sorrow, Sunday will come. No matter our desperation, no matter our grief, Sunday will come. In this life or the next, Sunday will come."

SUNDAY WILL COME IN THE DARKNESS OF OUR SORROW.

QUESTION

We've talked about where the disciples went after the Savior's death, but what about Jesus? WHERE DID HE GO?

One of the greatest revelations we've received in the past century tells us that Christ

"Went not to person among the wicked, ... to teach them. But behold, from among the righteous, he organized his forces and appointed messengers, clothed with power and authority, and commissioned them to go forth and carry the light of the gospel to them that were in darkness, even to all the spirits of men; and thus was the gospel preached in the dead" Doctrine and Covenants (D&C) 93

WE LOVE THE IDEA THAT CHRIST IS MOVING HIS WORK FORWARD ON BOTH SIDES OF THE VEIL.

We often focus on the Savior's work on our side of the veil—we can also remember that there's a whole other realm of Jesus' work, and section 138 gives us a little glimpse of it.

RESURRECTION
A DIVINE PLAN

CONSIDER THIS STATEMENT

from the Blue Dictionary entry

"Christianity is founded on the greatest of all miracles, the Resurrection of our Lord. If that be admitted, other miracles cease to be improbable."

Have you ever thought about that? Do we ever think of it as a miracle and wonder, "IS THIS POSSIBLE?"

If Jesus can be resurrected from the dead, ANY MIRACLE is possible. We are excited to explore this greatest of all miracles with you.

Let's explore some of the specific details recorded about Christ's Resurrection. We'll begin with John Chapter 20.

We read,

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb." It's interesting that Mary Magdalene is the only person specifically mentioned in each Gospel account as being at the empty tomb.

Mary Magdalene at the Empty Tomb, by Jesus Christ Image Collection

CONSIDER

THE EMPTY TOMB

"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 20:1-2).

Notice that her first assumption is that the tomb had been robbed—this is another indication that Christ's disciples weren't expecting the resurrection.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.ORG

"Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed" John 20:3-8).

John specifically records that seeing the clothes, along with the empty tomb, led this disciple to believe. The grave clothes proved Christ truly was resurrected; if somebody had stolen the body of Jesus, wouldn't they have taken the material to cover Christ while carting him away?

And even if they left the clothes behind, would they have taken the time to fold them neatly?

CONSIDER

MARY ALONE AT THE TOMB

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.ORG

Peter and the other disciple returned home, leaving Mary alone at the tomb. We read,

"As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her,

'Woman, why are you weeping?'" (John 20:11-13)

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.ORG

It's obvious why Mary is crying—she does not know where Jesus is. But think about this question from the Angels' perspective. Do they know where Jesus is? Of course! With their perspective, they're not worried. It makes me wonder how often in my life I'm in a position like Mary Magdalene, where I'm scared or sad about something and God says,

"Why are you weeping? Everything is going to turn out fine, don't worry."

Continuing with John 20, Mary said to the angels, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her,

'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?'" (John 20:13-15).

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.ORG

As scholar Gail R. O'Day, points out,

"These questions are the first words spoken by the risen Jesus. His question, *'Whom are you looking for?'* mirrors the first words he spoke in his ministry. When the followers of John the Baptist approached Jesus, he asked them,

'What are you looking for?' (John 1:38)."

CONSIDER THEN JESUS' WORDS.

The first words we hear Jesus speak in John, and the first words the resurrected Savior speaks in John are essentially the same:

"Who are you looking for?"

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Who are we looking for? Are we really SEEKING JESUS?

Mary pleaded with the man to tell her where Christ's body had been laid Then he spoke one word that changed everything ....

"Mary" (John 20:16).

She realized then that she was speaking with the Savior.

WHAT WOULD THIS EXPERIENCE HAVE FELT LIKE FOR MARY?

CONSIDER

THE FULFILLMENT OF CHRIST'S WORDS.

He is the good shepherd who *"calleth his own sheep by name."*

And Mary?

She is one of the sheep who *"know his voice"* (John 10:3-4).

HOLD ME NOT

PONDER JESUS' COMMAND

We can't wait to see this scene replayed in the celestial highlight film. The expression on Mary's face, what she does, we don't know for sure what happens, but it appears that she's holding onto Jesus in some way.

Maybe she's embraced him—she's holding onto him and never wants Christ to leave again. But Jesus has a different plan and says, *"Hold me not."*

That might sound harsh, but consider this insight from Dr. O'Day:

> "Jesus' command, 'Do not hold on to me,' is the first post-resurrection command. It is the first command of the resurrected Christ to a disciple that he cannot and will not be held and controlled. One cannot hold Jesus to preconceived standards and expectations of who he should be, because to do so is to interfere with Jesus' work and thereby limit what Jesus has to offer."

ANOTHER LESSON

FROM MARY MAGDALENE

There's often misinformation about Mary Magdalene. Some people say that she was a prostitute, but that idea is completely unscriptural. Others suggest that perhaps Mary Magdalene and Jesus were married. That is also speculation the Church has specifically stated that it has no position on whether Jesus was married.

HERE IS WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MARY MAGDALENE FROM THE SCRIPTURES:

She was apparently a wealthy individual who, along with other women, helped support the Savior financially.

LUKE CHAPTER 8

In Luke chapter 8, we learn that at one point Mary had seven demons inside of her. Perhaps that number seven is used symbolically to show that she was completely possessed—nearly beyond hope. We don't know exactly what it means to have seven demons inside of you, but it is not good. So they was in a dark, lost place. But then she met Jesus and he healed her.

MARY MAGDALENE continues to follow Jesus, and now she becomes the first human witness of the resurrected Savior. Think about what an amazing experience that must have been. Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Jesus by THE FIRST HUMAN WITNESS of the resurrected Christ, because Jesus touched her life.

That's a huge message of hope.

IF YOU ARE IN A DARK PLACE, JESUS CAN BRING YOU TO THE LIGHT.

Maybe today—next week, or next month, you'll be talking to someone in a *bad place*—help them connect with Jesus. Because it's when Jesus touches Mary Magdalene's life that things change for her.

It's the same with you and me, and those that we love.

THE RESURRECTED LORD

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Let's turn to a resurrection account that's only in Luke. Luke records that after resurrection morning, some disciples were walking on a road to Emmaus.

We read,

"On that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, a few miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them,

"What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied,

The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

BUT WE HAD HOPED THAT HE WAS THE ONE TO REDEEM ISRAEL." (LUKE 24:13-21, NRSV)

WE HAD HOPED

Did you notice the past tense? "WE HAD HOPED." These might be some of the saddest words in scripture. Have you ever felt them?

- I had hoped that this treatment would work.
- I had hoped that this time my child would really change.
- I had hoped I would get the job.
- I had hoped I would find true love—so many things we had hoped.

In essence the disciples say, "We had hoped. But I guess we were wrong."

Isn't it ironic that in the very moment they are losing hope, Jesus is right there with them?

Is the same thing ever true in our lives? The moment we're giving up, when we feel like, "I had hoped, but I was wrong," yet Jesus is right there walking with us.

JESUS IS RIGHT THERE WITH US.

The road to Emmaus is our reminder that Jesus walks with us even in our discouraging moments. Recognizing Jesus, we can go to Emmaus. Perhaps some days we feel alone, like we had hoped he was the one. But we can have confidence knowing that he's still there walking with us.

THOMAS

A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

Let's turn to the account of Jesus and the disciple Thomas. Sometimes Thomas is called "Doubting Thomas."

But if we only remember Thomas's doubts, we shortchange him.

Look at John Chapter 11:16. Jesus was planning to return to Jerusalem, and it was going to be dangerous. "Thomas, said to the fellow disciples,

Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16) If this was the phrase we remembered from Thomas, we might think of him as "BRAVE THOMAS," or "COURAGEOUS THOMAS." So why do we think of him as "Doubting Thomas"?

In John 20, the Savior appeared to the apostles, but Thomas was not there.

When the disciples told him they had seen Jesus he said,

"Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A WEAKLIER

Jesus disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

"Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas,

"Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, *"My Lord and my God!"* Jesus said to him,

"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (JOHN 20:25-29)

DEVELOPING A DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

WITH OR WITHOUT SEEING HIS PROOFS

Luke wrote that at his resurrection, Christ "*showed himself alive . . . by many indisible proofs*" (Acts 1:3)

President Ballard said: ——

Every member of the Church is entitled to and can "develop an apostolic like relationship with the Lord."

So normal people, you and me, can develop a deep relationship with Christ, with or without seeing him. OR HIS NAIL PRINTS OR HIS SPEAR WOUND.

SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS

TRANSFORMS US

Let's turn to John Chapter 21. Some time has passed since the resurrection. Peter and many of the disciples are at the Sea of Galilee they were going back to their old life.

They fished all night but caught nothing. The next morning, they saw a figure on the shore who told them to try one more time. When they follow his courses, they get an amazing catch of fish.

Some of the disciples realized that the man at the shore was the Savior. Peter was so excited that he jumped off the boat and swam straight to Jesus.

CONTRAST THIS ACCOUNT WITH AN EARLIER FISHING MIRACLE

In Luke chapter 5, Jesus helped Peter catch so many fish that his net broke.

When that happened, Peter said:

"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8)

James Martin points out, *"Notice how Peter has changed over the course of Jesus's ministry. At the Miraculous Catch of Fish, recognizing his own sinful ness. He shrinks before Jesus. He cannot bear his own limitations.*

At the Breakfast by the Sea, he does not fail to rush to Jesus, even knowing his sinfulness. That is a transformation that has come from spending time with Jesus."

That is a beautiful thought to contemplate

PONDER

The other disciples came rowing to the shore with the fish. After they all ate breakfast together, Jesus said to Peter.

"Do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15, NRSV)

THINK ABOUT THE SAVIOR'S QUESTION AS IT APPLIES TO YOU AND ME

Do you love me more than these?

In context, it seems that Jesus is asking Peter if Peter loves Jesus more than all the fish—or in other words, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN YOUR TEMPORAL PURSUITS?

President M. Russell Ballard said:

Relating this question to ourselves in our day, the Lord may be asking us about how busy we are and about the many positive and negative influences competing for our attention and our time. He may be asking each of us if we love him more than the things of this world. This may be a question about what we really value in life.

Do you love me more than these? This is an important question for us to consider. And when we respond,

"Yea Lord, you know I love you," his answer to us will be,

"Then feed my sheep".

FOCUS NOT JUST ON FISH

but feeding His sheep!

Looking at this scene holistically, we see that Christ has been resurrected, then Peter goes fishing and Jesus meets him at the Sea of Galilee.

Elder Holland taught:
Perhaps Jesus was saying to Peter something like—

"Peter, I'd you really love me, WHY ARE YOU HERE? *Why are we back on this same shore, by these same nets, having this same conversation?*

Wasn't it obvious then and isn't it obvious now that I'd want fish, I can get fish? What I want, Peter, are disciples—and I want them forever.

I need someone to feed my sheep and save my family. I need someone to preach my gospel and defend my faith. I need someone who knows me, truly, truly loves me, and loves what our Father in Heaven has commissioned me to do...

So, Peter, for the second and presumably the last time, I am asking you to leave all this and to go back and testify, labor and serve loyally until the day in which they will do to you exactly what they did to me."

ANOTHER COMMANDMENT

COME FOLLOW ME

Like Peter, you and I might get distracted a lot. But we've had encounters with Jesus.

We cannot go back to our old ways. As with Peter, Christ gently urges us to not worry about other things, but instead focus on following him.

In John's account, those are the final words Jesus speaks:

"follow me."

THE FOUR GOSPELS

EMPHASIZE THAT HE WAS ALL THE TIME LIVING NOW!

JESUS CHRIST LIVES!

In the four Gospel accounts the emphasis is not Jesus has been resurrected and he will be alive, but rather Jesus has been resurrected and he is alive now!! So you people about it. In John, Jesus Said directlee to his disciples is to follow him by feeding his sheep. In Matthew, his final comment to go into all the world and make disciples of people from all nations. Mark and Luke have a similar emphasis.

As believers in the Living Christ it is our opportunity to go tell others the good news

THAT JESUS CHRIST LIVES!

That's a key pattern in Christ's resurrection accounts.

JESUS RETAINED HIS SCARS

EVEN IN HIS PERFECTED RESURRECTED BODY

ARTIST / JAY BRYANT WARD
http://www.jaybryantward.com/index.html
http://www.jaybryantward.com/index.html#/the-gospel

HIS SCARS • SIGNS OF HIS LOVE

PONDER

What do we make of the fact that Christ retains these scars even in his perfected, resurrected body?

Elder Holland said: ——

"However dim our days may seem, they have been a lot darker for the Savior of the world. As a reminder of those days, Jesus has chosen, even in a resurrected, otherwise perfected body, to retain for the benefit of His disciples the wounds in His hands and in His feet and in His side—signs, if you will, that painful things happen even to the pure and the perfect, signs, if you will, that pain in this world is not evidence that God doesn't love us, signs, if you will, that problems pass and happiness can be sure . . .

It is the wounded Christ who is the Captain of our souls. These wounds are the principal way we are to recognize Him when he comes."

As you spend time thinking about Jesus Christ, we hope that you'll see that it is because of his PRINTS OF PEACE, that Jesus truly is the PRINCE OF PEACE.

Jesus doesn't want us to look at his scars and feel sorrowful. He wants us to see in them his commitment and love. He received his wounds willingly and keeps the scars purposefully because he loves us—wholly and infinitely.

We testify of the reality of Christ's resurrection, and that

JESUS LIVES TODAY.

SEEKING JESUS

visuals & points to ponder / printables

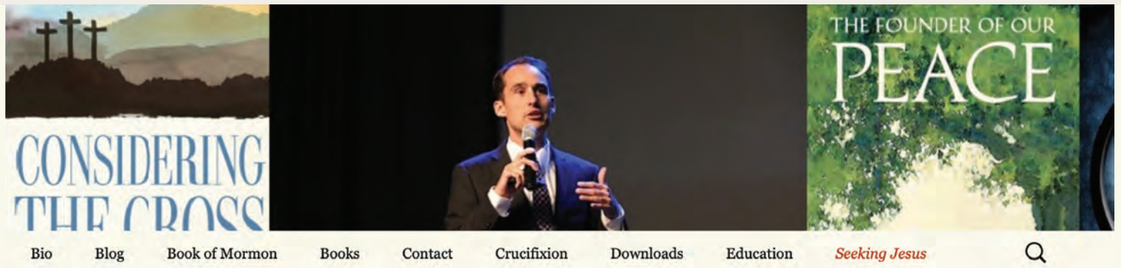
all to help **F I N D** Jesus' Principles

YOU HAVE JUST COMPLETED CLASS 21 "VISUALS"
IN THIS 28 CLASS SERIES.

NEXT, VIEW THE PDF CLASS 21 "PRINTABLES"
LOCATED WHERE YOU DOWNLOADED THIS FILE.

VISIT: https://johnhiltoniii.com/seekingjesus/#videos

TO SEE ADDITIONAL CLASSES, VIDEOS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY TO SEEK JESUS



J O H N H I L T O N I I I
johnhiltoniii.com

TO SHARE THIS SEEKING JESUS PDF, SCAN THE QR CODE

THANK YOU FOR **SEEKING JESUS** WITH US.

SEEKING JESUS . SORBONNE DESIGN ©