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A FEW OF CHRIST'S POST RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

John 20 is an incredible chapter highlighting some of the events of the first post Resurrection appearances of Christ. Here is an overview...

1. **Mary Magdalene** (John 20:1-2, 11-18) — Christ's *first* post Resurrection appearance was to a woman named Mary Magdalene, a devout follower out of whom He had cast seven demons (Luke 8:1-3)! Her home was in Magdala, a city on the southwest coast of the Sea of Galilee. Mary Magdalene is nowhere identified as a prostitute or as a sinful woman as preached so often. She ran and told the disciples she had seen the empty tomb. After Peter and John saw and believed, they went back to tell the others but Mary stayed, and that made all the difference!
2. **The significance of the folded face cloth** (John 20:3-10) — The cloth placed over the face of Jesus was not just laid aside like the other grave clothes. In fact, scripture takes an entire verse to tell us that the cloth/napkin was neatly folded and placed at the head of the stone platform.

Every Jewish boy knew the tradition of the folded napkin at mealtime. After the servant set the table for the master, the servant would wait until the master had finished eating.

If the master was finished, he would wipe his hands, mouth, beard, and wad up the napkin and toss it aside. The servant would know to clear the table. However, if the master got up and folded his napkin, the servant would know that he would be coming back to finish his meal.

By folding the napkin, Jesus was saying that He had come back from the grave through His Resurrection! Praise the Lord!
3. **The disciples commissioned** (John 20:19-23) — Jesus then appeared to the disciples who were behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. When He showed them His hands and side they believed! He then breathed on the disciples, and, receiving the Holy Spirit, they were given the ministry of reconciliation.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:18 states that our ministry, like the disciples, is also to reconcile the world to God!
4. **Thomas sees and believes** (John 20:24-29) — When they told Thomas, who had not been at that first encounter, he demanded proof. Jesus appeared to them again and specifically told Thomas to examine the nail scars and His side. When he believed, Jesus said, “...because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
 - Question: Why has history renamed him “doubting Thomas” when the rest of the disciples were hiding in fear of the Jews? He obviously was not overcome with fear as they were.
5. **That we may believe** — John 20:30-31 *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.*