

A. D. 30.]

John 20.1-18.



[Commit to memory verses 15-17.]

1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Mag'da-le-ne early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher.

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Si'mon Pe'ter, and to the other disciple, whom Je'sus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and where they have laid him.

3 Pe'ter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulcher.

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Pe'ter, and came first to the sepulcher.

5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6 Then cometh Si'mon Pe'ter, following him, and went into the sepulcher, 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.

8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulcher, and he saw, and believed.

9 For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

LESSON V. JESUS RISEN.

[Oct. 31.]

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

11 But Ma'ry stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher.

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Je'sus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Je'sus standing, and knew not that it was Je'sus.

15 Je'sus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Je'sus saith unto her, Ma'ry. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rab-bo'ni; which is to say, Master.

17 Je'sus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

18 Ma'ry Mag'da-le-ne came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

General Statement.

It was just before sunset, on Friday afternoon, when the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb near by, which had been provided by the generosity of Joseph, the rich Arimathean. Nicodemus, slow to confess his Master, but strong in his love, was at hand with his gift of spices for the anointing of the body, though most of the apostles had forsaken their Saviour. The door of the tomb was opened, and the body was gently laid to rest, amid the tears of a few faithful women. On the next day the leaders of the Jews asked that the sepulcher might be guarded, lest the disciples should steal the body and declare that Jesus had risen. The guard was fixed, and the stone door was sealed with the emblem of authority. Sunday morning came, and with it came God's angelic messenger, who broke the Roman seal, and rolled away the stone from the door of the sepulcher, while the watchers fell like dead men before him. All ignorant of the wonder that had taken place, came the women

to the tomb, and found it empty. Mary Magdalene ran to bring word to Peter and John that their Saviour's body was lost from its sepulcher. The other women looked within, and saw two angels, who told them that the Lord was risen, and bade them bear the glad news to the disciples. They fled in mingled joy and terror from the spot, and scarcely daring to believe the word. Soon after came Peter and John, brought in haste by Mary Magdalene's summons. John reached the door first, but paused upon the threshold; but Peter, a moment later, entered at once; and then his younger companion entered also, emboldened by his example. As John saw the garments of the grave carefully folded up and laid away, the conviction rushed upon his mind that his Master had risen; a conviction from which he never for one instant wavered. The two apostles walked away in deep thought, but Mary Magdalene tarried by the open grave to weep. Her tears were rewarded by the first sight of the Saviour after his resurrection.

Explanatory and Practical Notes.

Verse 1. The first day of the week. Sunday, the day after the Jewish Sabbath. Cometh Mary Magdalene. See note on Lesson IV, verse 25. She is the only one mentioned here, as John aims to emphasize her part in the events of that morning, but from the other gospels we learn that Mary, the mother of James, Joanna, and Salome, were also present. When it was yet dark. They started just before the dawn of the morning, and reached the sepulcher about sunrise. Matt. 28, 1; Mark 16, 2. Into the sepulcher. Rev. Ver., "the tomb." It was the tomb built by the rich Arimathean Joseph for himself, in which the body of Jesus had been laid. Seeth the stone taken away. Oriental tombs are generally closed by a large stone fitted in the door. Mary Magdalene came in advance of the other women, and was first to notice that the grave had been opened.

2. Then she runneth. She went at once, without waiting to confer with the other women. They came up a moment afterward, and in the open tomb saw an angel who told them that Jesus had risen. To Simon Peter. He was recognized as the leader among the disciples, notwithstanding his recent fall, from which he had already risen. The other disciple. John, the writer of this gospel, who every-where avoids the mention of his own name. They have taken away the Lord. She does not say whether it was the Jews, or the owners of the garden, who had opened the tomb and carried away the corpse. We know not. The use of the word "we," rather than "I," shows that others besides Mary were in the company, just as is stated in the other gospels.

3, 4. Went forth. They went at once, alarmed by the news, and Mary Magdalene followed, arriving later. Did outrun Peter. Peter is supposed to have been one of the oldest, and John one of the youngest, of the twelve.

5, 6. Stooping down. As was necessary, for the entrance to the tomb was an opening rather than a door. Saw the linen clothes—Not *clothes*, but *cloths*, the wrappings for the dead body. He could see them dimly in the shadows of the cave. Went he not in... Simon Peter... went into. All this has the stamp of truthfulness, because it is in precise accord with the character of the two men. It was like the thoughtful and retiring John to hesitate on the threshold of his master's tomb; it was like the aggressive, energetic Peter to push past John and enter at once.

7, 8. The napkin. All this is related with the precision of an eye-witness. John noticed the orderly arrangement of the long strips of linen, and the napkin folded and laid away in order; signs that the body had not been taken away in haste. Then went in also that other disciple. Bushnell has a great sermon from this text on "Unconscious Influence." Peter did not know that his example was leading John, and John did not know that he was led by Peter. He saw. John saw more than his companion. Both saw the linen cloths and the napkin; John alone saw with the inner eye of faith what it all meant, that his Master had risen from the dead. And believed. That was the moment when the fact of the resurrection was first grasped by John's faith. This was remarkable, for as yet no revelation that Christ was risen had come to the two disciples. (1) O happy hour when the heart embraces the risen Saviour!

9. For as yet. This verse is inserted to give the reason why they did not sooner believe that Jesus would rise. It was because they knew not the Scripture. They did not understand the Old Testament predictions, but were convinced only by the facts, which they could not gainsay. That he must rise. The prophecies of the Old Testament were such as needed