

Hi, I'm Marty McKenzie with His Love Ministries. Welcome to the Least of These podcast. We reach out to those the world has forgotten. If you'd like to know more about us and how you can donate to help us fulfill our mission, go to [hisloveministries.net](http://hisloveministries.net). Thank you very much and God bless you. ♪ I'm so glad I learned to trust Him ♪ ♪ Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend of mine ♪ And I know that He is with me. He'll be with me to the end. Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him. How I prove Him more and more. Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus. That's a perfect sound lead out what we're gonna be talking about this morning and John chapter 20 we're gonna make it to John chapter 20 this morning. We're gonna be talking about the resurrection and really how these disciples are going from fear to faith and that some of them are doubting, some of them are fearing, some of them are distressed and worried and anxious and perplexed and all these things, but finally Jesus shows them who He really is and they finally trust Him like they ought to. So we've already seen in the first 20 chapters, we've seen the seven miracles of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, turning the water to wine, walking on the water, still in the storm, healing the blind man. He heals the man that's been by the pool for 38 years and And he heals the boy from 15 miles away, and he feeds the 5,000 men and the women and children. We don't know how many total there were, maybe 15,000, 20,000 people. But John, remember, wrote this book, and we'll get to that. in the next couple of weeks hopefully in chapter 20 verse 30 and 31 where he says and many other signs Jesus did in the presence of his disciples but these have been written about that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and believing you might have life in his name. Jesus has been crucified we talked about that how it all worked out how he's been buried and they borrowed a tomb and and he's buried with the rich at his death and God just works it all out to fulfill these prophecies. And in the 24 hour period, in the previous day period at 24 hours, including his death on the cross, there were 28 specific Old Testament prophecies. Remember we kept talking about that the scripture might be fulfilled, that the scripture might be fulfilled. And there were many types fulfilled. The type, remember, you got a typewriter, it does what? It puts an impression on the paper, right? The type is not the letter, but it's the thing that makes the letter. And

ultimately in the Old Testament, there were lots of types. There were lots of pictures of what Jesus Christ would do. And so there's been many of those. And so John continues the account because it's not over. Jesus is not gone. Jesus is not truly dead. He's dead, but he's gonna raise from the grave, right? I mean, his body is dead, but the spirit is alive, made alive in the flesh is what it says. I think over in first Peter that he died in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. We wanna see that this is the best news we're gonna see starting today. The best news in history that he's risen, that it's the power of God for salvation. That this resurrection is an indisputable fact upon which their faith was based and which our faith should be based. He, Jesus is not a criminal. He's a God. He's God and human flesh. Romans chapter one, verse four says, he was declared to be the son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15 verse 14 says, and if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is empty also. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ whom he did not raise, if he did not raise him up, in fact, the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise and Christ is not risen, if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile you are still in your sins. In the last verse, I like Romans chapter 4, it says, verse 23, Sorry, I'm jumping pretty fast. He says, now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, charged to him, but also for us it shall be imputed to those who believe in him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, from the dead who was delivered up because of our offenses. but he was raised because of our justification. So Jesus died for our sins, but he was raised up that we might be legally declared righteous. We've talked about that, that, you know, if you... Do the crime, you gotta do the time. But let's say the governor comes in or the president comes in. They were all asking, well, if Obama didn't get elected, reelected, who was he gonna pardon? Cuz every time a president leaves the office, they come in and pardon somebody. I don't know who started that. It doesn't make any sense to me, but they apparently get this opportunity to pardon a few people. And I'll say to the president, you're guilty and the president or the governor or somebody comes in and says well I'm going to Pardon Marty. I know he's guilty, but I'm going to pardon him.

That's what is being called legally declared righteous. You're guilty. We're all sinners. We're all guilty before God. But when we put our trust in him, like we talked about earlier, when we ask him to forgive us and ask him to save us because we believe Jesus is God and he died on that cross for our sins, And we take him at his word and say, God forgive me, God save me. And then we tell him, thank you for hearing and answering our prayer. He forgives our sins. And then he says, you're not guilty anymore. You have been declared legally righteous. So not that we are clean and pure, but he makes us clean and pure. We get God's righteousness, God's holiness. We have to look at this section of scripture today and as we look at the first few verses, You know, we're gonna see that it says, now the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early while it was dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved and said to them, they have taken away the Lord out of the tomb. and we do not know where they had laid him. Let's stop right there for a minute or two. Notice what he says, now the first day of the week. He didn't say now the third day after Jesus was buried, but he says the first day of the week. That's gonna be important because number one, when do we worship God now? The day that we worship has been changed to the first day of the week, and every time you look, In your Bible, you'll see that Jesus appears to the disciples. They meet on the first day of the week. And so Jesus sets the precedent that on the first day of the week from now on, that we don't celebrate the Sabbath, but now the Sunday, the first day of the week has become the new Sabbath, the day to worship the Lord, the day to set aside for Him, the day to honor Him and to glorify Him. So it says the first day of the week, you know, we've talked about this I think the last time and you got to ask yourself a lot of people say well was he crucified on Wednesday or was he crucified on Friday and we've talked about that the fact that you know, I believe he was crucified on Friday because we've looked at What is it the book of Esther where Esther says pray for me three days and then on the third day she goes before the king and And on the third day was basically a Hebrewism that meant any part of three days. So as long as Jesus got in the grave before dark, which he did, and then he was in the grave

overnight, and then the next morning was Sunday morning, three parts or three days. And remember Jesus said that, you know, if you destroy this temple, I will raise it up in three days, right? Well, you know what? The Jews didn't forget that, did they? The Jewish religious leaders, they remembered that Jesus said he would rise from the dead in three days. And because he had already told them that an evil and adulterous generation asked for a sign, but no sign will be given except for the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. That's Matthew 12, verse 39 and 40. So even though the disciples had forgotten about the resurrection, these Jewish leaders had not forgotten. They hadn't forgotten. So the next day, it tells us over Matthew 27, I'm not going to read all of it, but they go to Pilate and they say, remember while that deceiver was alive, he said, after three days, I'll rise again. So please give orders to secure the tomb until the third day, otherwise his disciples will come and steal his body. and say to the people he's been raised from the dead. So they took a guard of soldiers, they secured it, and the soldiers of the guard went and made the tomb secure. And so we can see these Jewish leaders, all smug and self-satisfied, saying we got him now, he'll never get out of that tomb. Remember, they rolled a humongous stone in front of the tomb if you read the other accounts that it was a very large stone and I think the women went to the grave according to the other Gospels and are wondering how they're going to get to Jesus because they're worried about him being properly anointed now I don't I don't understand. I don't I never have I haven't quite figured out why they went back to anoint him because Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea have already put Jesus in a hundred pounds of spices. I mean, it's about a hundred pounds of spices and they've already anointed his body, wrapped him in this, all these spices and wrapped his body as they would. I don't know why they were so concerned. Maybe they're typical women. They come in and they say, I know these men don't do a good job, so we're going to go do it right. So they wanted to come make sure it was done right. Us men sometimes it's about getting it done, not always doing it exactly right sometimes, but we want to get it done. And these women were

probably making sure that it was done right. And so they came to make sure that it was done right. Matthew's account shows how useless it was to contain the Son of God. And I don't know if these Jewish leaders thought they were gonna strike terror in the hearts of the Lord's disciples by preventing them from stealing the body from the tomb. They weren't opposing the disciples, they were really opposing God. And remember that stone, was there, but the stone was removed, not so Jesus could get out, but so that the disciples could get in and see that Jesus was gone. That was the whole reason that he'd been raised from the dead. Let's, first of all, we're going to see how these people move. Mary has grief and the disciples have fear and Thomas has doubt. And ultimately they're going to be transformed from their previous condition from one of fear and doubt and grief to joy and gladness and faith. But we're gonna see, first of all, we're gonna see Mary's love and devotion. And so it says on the first day of the week, Mary, she went to the tomb early, right? While it was still dark. I mean, she's the first one on the scene, if we read the accounts, We see that there were several other women came to the tombs But apparently Mary is the first one there. That's Mary Magdalene Now who is Mary Magdalene? She's the one that Jesus took the seven demons out of her cast the seven demons out of her and the Bible tells us over in Luke 7 47, you know, she's she's one that's been forgiven much the Bible says to him that's been forgiven much and They love much. And he was talking about Mary, because she had many sins that were forgiven. And so she comes first to the grave, and the other ladies come along too. And she goes, and it's still dark. I mean, it's not even daylight yet. And she gets there, and she sees that the stone's been taken away from the tomb. And but the first thing she does, apparently she doesn't even look in there from what the text says, but she just automatically assumes that somebody's stolen the body. Somebody's taken the body. And so what does she do? He says that she had stolen and been taken away. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter and the other disciple 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 them. Notice it says, we do not know where they've laid them. So there's other ladies there, and that speaks to the fact she goes and chases down Peter, right? I mean, who's the

first person she goes to? Peter. Remember, Peter's still the leader of the group, right? Peter's always been the leader. He's always mentioned first. goes to Peter now we don't know based on the text there if Peter is one place and John is in another place we don't know but it says she goes to Peter and then she and then she goes to the other disciples so maybe they were both at the same place but Peter always gets mentioned first This tomb has been closed, the rock's there, the ladies come, they are amazed that the rock's gone, this big ole humongous, it's probably a thousand, two thousand pound rock laid up against some stone. I don't know if you've ever tried to move anything of any weight, but even sometimes two or three hundred pounds, unless you can roll it, you can't do much with it. I saw some logs that were cut off a tree not too long ago that that three guys couldn't even roll. They were dropping these logs and they couldn't even roll them. They dropped it just a little bit of a crater and they couldn't even roll them. And that's what this was. They created a little bit of a crater right there. and roll that rock up in there so when it got there, it wouldn't move back out, right? Because if there's not something to stop it, it's liable to roll back the other way. You don't want a big stone like that rolling over anybody, do you? She's devoted to Jesus. She comes and she checks and she goes and she runs and she gets Peter. Then she gets the other disciple and she says they've taken away the Lord out of the tomb So she automatically assumes that the body's been stolen that that there's nothing It's gone because there was a lot of grave robberies going on at that time And that's her first thought and so she's thinking it couldn't get any worse But you know what the truth is that it could not get much better. Sometimes we look at things from our perspective, and we don't look at things from God's perspective. And you know what? This was gonna be the greatest thing that's ever happened. Sometimes we see the adversity in our life, the trouble in our life. And we fail to see beyond that adversity, beyond that trouble, to see what is God doing in our life? What is God doing in other people's lives? What is he doing? The Bible says, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, right? Knowing that the testing of your faith produces Patience and let patience have its perfect work that you might be mature and complete and we all know Romans 8 28 This is it and we know That all things

that God is doing are working together for good to them that love God are called according his purposes and so they don't understand they hadn't figured out that that Jesus is gone and so it says a verse in three and four appeared, therefore went out. And the other disciple, and we're going to the tomb, so they both ran together. And the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. So what happens next? We see that Peter and the other disciple begin to run. She ran to get them. And now they're like, uh-oh, well, let's go check this out. And so they, Peter therefore went out. So mentions Peter first again. And the other disciple, now who's the other disciple? I didn't say this a minute ago. It's probably John, right? It's always got to be John, I think, because John never names himself. And it says, they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. So we don't know if she went to Peter's first, and then they had to go get John. And Peter had been running further, so he was tireder, so he got outran by John. Or we don't know if, We do know that John was younger than all of them, right? Because he was the last disciple alive when he wrote the book of Revelation. Maybe it's just that he's younger, we don't know. But he outruns Peter to the tomb, but then he doesn't go in. And so it says, that they came to the tomb and stooping down and looking, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in. It's early morning, maybe it's not quite light enough yet, because remember it was still dark when Mary comes and gets them, right? So they go and maybe John kind of peeks in like that. He sees the clothes laying there. Remember this is a little low. cave and inside of it there'd be some shelves on the inside of it you'd only take out what you needed and a lot of these caves they would take make these little shelves or take what was in there and they would lie the lay the bodies on these shelves inside there and so maybe he just stoops down and kind of looks and he all he can see at this point is these clothes laying there but John, maybe he doesn't want to go in there because why? The Jews are not supposed to go near dead bodies and there'd be that defilement, that ritual defilement, plus the fact that maybe he's got a respect. So he kind of looks down. and it says he saw them laying there. Now I'm going to talk about three different words. I don't know if we'll get to all three of them today because we're kind of running short on

time today. But basically what happens is kind of like John kind of does like this and he kind of glances in and he doesn't really look. I mean it's kind of like a glance. He just looks in and maybe he sees them laying there and he thinks well the body's still in there because he can't see good enough. because everything's laying there just like somebody was still there. And we don't know, I mean it's got 100 pounds of spices in there, we don't know how thick that is, but they took those spices and they took those linen strips and they would wrap that body with those around it and create basically a gooey type substance and they would create this cocoon type thing. and then they would put that in the grave. And so he looks down and maybe he sees just enough shape to it, he can't tell, so he glances at it. And then it says, yet he did not go in. Look at verse six. And then it says, then Simon Peter came following him and went into the tomb and he saw the linen cloths lying there. in the handkerchief that had been around his head, not lying with the living cloths, but folded together in a place by himself. So what happens? Good old Peter, Mr. Peter that's always running and getting himself in trouble. But remember, Peter's the leader of the group. He's the one that's, yes, he's impetuous. Yes, sometimes he puts his foot in his mouth. Yes, sometimes he does the wrong thing. But you know what? What's that old saying? I heard a better one the other day by Teddy Roosevelt. I can't remember what it is. I think it was Roosevelt. But what's that old saying, nothing ventured, nothing gained, right? And there was one I've heard a couple of times on TV in the last couple of weeks. Talks about, you know, if you something, I think Roosevelt said it, something like that, would you rather soar with the eagles or stay on the ground with the turkeys, something like that. I can't remember the exact saying. But the question is, is if you don't try something, you'll never know if you can do it, right? If you never do anything, you'll never accomplish anything. And some people go their whole life and they said one man, he said how many books he had in his head, but he never wrote a single one because he never stopped to do it. And sometimes that fear stops you. But Peter, he went into the tomb and then he saw the living clothes lying there. So that word saw that Peter is used with Peter. And I don't know why they don't do this in our Bible, make you have to know a little bit. Greek or



look at somebody that understands the Greek, which that's what I have to do. It basically says he begins to wonder, he begins to theorize, he thinks about it and starts to wonder. And so what we see next is Peter's perplexity, because Peter's perplexed. Because he looks down and he sees these clothes, these linen wrappings, but they're all in the same place. but they've just got the spices in there and they're neat and they're orderly. Now if some grave robbers come in there, what's going to happen? They're either going to rip it all off, which most likely they're not going to do. They're going to probably just grab the whole body and run with it. And then at their convenience, come back and do whatever they want to, because those are valuable. Those spices are valuable. The clothes are valuable. He sees them lying there. And the handkerchief that had been around his head, it says it was not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. basically what that means is that the linen cloth, you know, they'd had a neck piece and You know, we've seen that Shroud of Turin thing on TV, but that's but that's not the way they wrap them It says we read the previous section, you know that they they wrap them with strips of cloth and so there was never one big piece of cloth that Jesus was wrapped in it was many strips of And then they'd have a piece for the neck, and then they'd have a napkin for the head to wrap the head. And it says that this napkin for the head was laying by itself, rolled up. In other words, the way the Greek reads in these sayings is all this stuff, the first thing about the linen cloths lying there, it means it was undisturbed and in its proper place. Undisturbed and in its proper place and then the headpiece is no longer right there where the head should be But it's off to the side a little bit and it's rolled up. It's folded Neatly, it's not just discarded. It says later on in Luke 24 verse 12 Then Peter rose and ran into the sepulchre stooping down. He beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves and departed Wondering in himself at that which was come to pass And so the body's not there the wrappings are and this sticky gooey substance is on there and so the They think, well, what in the world's going on? The clothes are here, but nobody else is here. We're gonna stop there today because of time. But just think about this. They don't know what's going on yet. You know, sometimes we need to go back and read these stories like we've never read them before.

See, they don't know the things that we know, do they? They don't know the stories we know. We got the whole end of the book to the book of Revelation. We've got, as Paul Harvey would say, the rest of the story. But see, these people, they don't know, they don't understand. Yes, Jesus has told them. And yes, somewhat on their part, there was a lack of faith, a lack of understanding. But the other part of it was there came a time when Jesus would show them things. And He would open up their eyes to understand the truth. And you know, that's the way it is with us. We don't always understand things like we ought to. And it's not sometimes, not most of the time, because we're just dumb or stupid. And that's what a lot of people think about these disciples. Well, why didn't these guys get it? Why didn't they understand? It takes time to understand God reveals things to us in his timing, in his way, and at the right time. And so we're gonna stop there today, but just think about that, that God's working. And these guys, they don't know what's going on yet, but they're gonna find out. And we'll leave that for next time. Well, let's pray. Father, we just thank you for who you are. We thank you for sending your son Jesus to die on the cross. And we ask that you would speak to our hearts, that you would just change us and make us more like you, Lord. You're the only one who can change us. You can take a dead man that's been in the grave four days and raise him from the grave. You can die on the cross and rise from the grave yourself. Father, you can feed people. You can do anything because you are God. And we thank you that Jesus was God and he died in our place and he died for our sins. Lord, help somebody here today to understand that and ask you to forgive them on the basis of what Jesus did on that cross and become that new creation. And in a sense, they're going to rise from the dead because we're spiritually dead until we trust Christ. But the moment we trust you, we become alive like Adam and Eve were before they fell in the garden. And we have God's spirit in us, the Holy Spirit. And then we become like you, Lord, again. Father, help us to desire your things and do your will. In Jesus' name we pray, amen. Number 86, it's so sweet to trust in Jesus just to take him Hi, I'm Marty McKenzie with His Love Ministries. Please help us reach out to those the world has forgotten. Everyone we minister to is locked up in some way, shape, or form.

Those in the nursing home facilities are locked up in bodies that do not work, in a wheelchair, or in a bed. We minister to children and youth who are locked up because of behavioral problems. Some have told us we want to have a real family because their parents have lost or given up custody of them. Other kids are locked up because they've committed crimes. We also minister to those locked up at the jails and the prisons, to those locked up in addictions to drugs, alcohol, depression, and suicidal thoughts, to those locked up in a variety of other things that keep them from becoming who Jesus wants them to be. He came to give us abundant life, joy, and set us free. And these people that we minister to are not free. Our desire is to show them, whatever their background, no matter what they've done, to see how much God loves them. We seek to help them receive forgiveness and freedom from their sin in Jesus Christ. We minister in the local area of Savannah, Georgia and surrounding Effingham and Chatham area. We have recently expanded our ministry to the Lexington, Columbia, South Carolina area. We do over 2,000 services every year. We hope and pray that you will support us in some way so we can continue our mission. Go to [HisLoveMinistries.net](http://HisLoveMinistries.net) and click on the Donate Now button or send it via regular mail to Post Office Box 1881, Lexington, South Carolina, 29071. We hope and pray that you will do that. Thank you and God bless you. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. John 8.32.