

John 20:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

Analysis

Then the disciples went away again unto their own home (ἀπῆλθον οὖν πάλιν πρὸς αὐτοὺς οἱ μαθηταί, apēlthon oun palin pros autous hoi mathētai)—literally 'went away again to themselves.' The adverb πάλιν (palin, 'again') suggests return to where they'd been staying, likely the upper room (20:19). This anticlimactic departure—after the universe's pivotal event—shows their confusion despite John's initial belief.

The verse's simplicity masks profound psychology: what do you do after seeing empty grave clothes? They hadn't seen Jesus, only evidence requiring interpretation. The beloved disciple believed (v.8), but belief without understanding (v.9) or confirmation leaves one suspended between worlds. They return home not in unbelief but in stunned processing, waiting for what comes next. Mary, by contrast, remains (v.11)—her persistence receives greater reward.

Historical Context

The disciples were likely staying together for safety after Jesus's arrest, probably in the same upper room where they'd celebrated Passover (Mark 14:15). Their 'homes' weren't their original residences (they were Galileans in Jerusalem) but temporary lodging. The separation between their departure and Mary's remaining sets up the dramatic contrast: the male disciples investigate and leave; the woman who stays becomes the first to see the risen Lord (v.14).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why do Peter and John leave after witnessing resurrection evidence, while Mary remains?
2. What does 'going home' represent when your entire worldview has just been shattered?
3. How do you process evidence of God's work that you can observe but not yet fully comprehend?

Interlinear Text

ἀπῆλθον	οὖν	πάλιν	πρὸς	ἑαυτοὺς	οἱ	μαθηταί
went away	Then	again	unto	their own home	G3588	the disciples
G565	G3767	G3825	G4314	G1438		G3101

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