

John 20:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

Analysis

She runneth (τρέχει, trechei)—present tense conveys breathless urgency. Mary reports to **Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved**—John's characteristic self-reference, written with humility decades later. The pairing echoes their partnership throughout the passion narrative (13:23-24, 18:15-16).

They have taken away the Lord (ἦραν τὸν κύριον, Ēran ton kyrion)—even in panic, Mary uses the resurrection title 'Lord' (κύριον, kyrion), not 'teacher' or 'master.' Her assumption of body-theft shows that resurrection wasn't expected or invented—it shattered existing categories. **We know not where they have laid him**—the plural 'we' suggests other women were present (cf. the Synoptics), though John focuses on Mary's experience.

Historical Context

Jewish burial customs required anointing within three days. Mary's concern about the body's location reflects this urgency. Roman authorities sometimes removed crucifixion victims to prevent veneration. The disciples' scattered state after Gethsemane explains their separation—they weren't gathered as a group, requiring Mary to seek them out individually or in small clusters.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does initial evidence of resurrection (empty tomb) produce confusion rather than faith?
2. What does Mary's immediate turn to the disciples reveal about the early Christian community's interdependence?
3. How does her unexpected use of 'Lord' (κύριον) even while assuming theft hint at faith deeper than intellectual understanding?

Interlinear Text

τρέχει	οὖν	καὶ	ἔρχεται	πρὸς	Σίμωνα	Πέτρον	καὶ	
she runneth	Then	and	cometh	to	Simon	Peter	and	
G5143	G3767	G2532	G2064	G4314	G4613	G4074	G2532	
πρὸς	τὸν	ἄλλον	μαθητὴν	ὃν	ἐφίλει	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	καὶ
to	G3588	the other	disciple	whom	loved	G3588	Jesus	and
G4314		G243	G3101	G3739	G5368		G2424	G2532
λέγει	αὐτόν	ἦραν	τὸν	κύριον	ἐκ	τοῦ		
saith	him	They have taken away	G3588	the Lord	out of	G3588		
G3004	G846	G142		G2962	G1537			
μνημείου	καὶ	οὐκ	οἶδαμεν	ποῦ	ἔθηκαν	αὐτόν		
the sepulchre	and	not	we know	where	they have laid	him		
G3419	G2532	G3756	G1492	G4226	G5087	G846		

Additional Cross-References

John 13:23 (Love): Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 20:13 (References Lord): 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.

John 19:26 (Love): When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

John 21:7 (Love): Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

John 21:20 (Love): Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

John 21:24 (Parallel theme): This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.