

John 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

Analysis

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple—John pairs the two throughout his Gospel, contrasting Peter's impulsive boldness with the beloved disciple's reflective insight. The particle 'therefore' (οὖν, oun) shows this is response to Mary's report, not independent investigation.

The simple narrative—no theological commentary yet—builds dramatic tension. John's Gospel excels at showing before explaining (cf. 2:22, 12:16). **Came to the sepulchre** (ἤρχοντο εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον, ērchonto eis to mnēmeion)—the imperfect tense suggests ongoing action: 'they were coming,' emphasizing the journey's suspense.

Historical Context

The Garden Tomb location, if accurate, was only 10-15 minutes from the upper room area. Rock-cut tombs outside city walls were standard for wealthy burials (Joseph of Arimathea provided this tomb, 19:38-41). Running to a tomb would have drawn attention, but the early hour and recent Passover crowds may have provided cover.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why does John include seemingly mundane details like 'they came to the sepulchre' in resurrection narrative?
2. What does the immediate, unquestioning response of both disciples reveal about their relationship with Mary and her credibility?
3. How does the pairing of different personality types (Peter and John) strengthen the witness to resurrection?

Interlinear Text

Ἐξῆλθεν	οὖν	ὁ	Πέτρος	καὶ	ὁ	ἄλλος	μαθητής
went forth	therefore	G3588	Peter	and	G3588	that other	disciple
G1831	G3767		G4074	G2532		G243	G3101
καὶ	ἦρχοντο	εἰς	τὸ	μνημεῖον			
and	came	to	G3588	the sepulchre			
G2532	G2064	G1519		G3419			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:12 (References Peter): Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.