

# John 20:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

## Analysis

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**They ran both together** (ἔτρεχον δὲ οἱ δύο ὥμοῦ, etrechon de hoi dyo homou)—the imperfect tense paints the scene: they kept running together, initial solidarity before separation. **The other disciple did outrun Peter** (οἱ ἄλλος μαθητὴς προέδραμεν τάχιον τοῦ Πέτρου, ho allos mathētēs proedramen tachion tou Petrou)—John was likely younger, but this detail serves theology, not biography.

The one who later shows greater spiritual perception arrives first physically but hesitates; Peter who denied Christ charges in despite arriving second. This reversal pattern pervades John's Gospel: first/last, seeing/believing, arriving/entering. The race isn't about competition but about how different temperaments approach the same truth.

## Historical Context

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The distance and terrain would have made running difficult—Jerusalem's streets were narrow and uneven. That both disciples ran shows the urgency and shock of Mary's report. John's inclusion of himself 'outrunning' Peter is sometimes seen as pride, but more likely it's the eyewitness's unconscious recall of vivid details, written decades later when such personal memories had theological significance.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why does John, writing 60 years later, remember who ran faster—and why include this detail?
2. What does the contrast between arriving first (John) but entering first (Peter) teach about faith's different expressions?
3. How do your natural temperament and personality shape your approach to evidence about Jesus?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔτρεχον δὲ οἱ δύο ὥμοῦ· καὶ ὁ ἄλλος μαθητὴς  
they ran So G3588 both together and G3588 the other disciple  
G5143 G1161 G1417 G3674 G2532 G243 G3101

προέδραμεν τάχιον τοῦ Πέτρου καὶ ἦλθεν πρῶτος εἰς  
did outrun G5032 G3588 Peter and came first to  
G4390 G4074 G2532 G2064 G4413 G1519

τὸ μνημεῖον  
the sepulchre  
G3588 G3419