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Sermon Title: "He Got Up – So We Can Too!"

Text: *John 20:1–31*

I. The Empty Tomb (John 20:1–10)

- **Mary Magdalene's Discovery (v.1):** She came early, *while it was still dark*. This reminds us that **resurrection hope shows up in our darkest hour**.
- **The Stone Rolled Away (v.1):** Not so Jesus could get out, but so we could *see in!* God reveals the victory.
- **Peter and John Run to the Tomb (v.4):** Passion runs toward Jesus. John's reverence pauses; Peter's boldness investigates. **Both are needed in the Church.**

 **Key Point:** An empty tomb proves death is defeated – Jesus kept His word!

II. A Personal Encounter (John 20:11–18)

- **Mary Weeping (v.11):** Sometimes we don't recognize Jesus in our grief.
- **Angels Ask Her, "Why are you weeping?" (v.13):** A heavenly reminder – *"Look again, resurrection is here."*
- **Jesus Calls Her by Name (v.16):** *"Mary!"* – He still **knows your name**, even in your confusion.
- **Commissioned to Go Tell (v.17–18):** The *first preacher of the resurrection* was a woman – **God breaks tradition to deliver truth.**

 **Key Point:** The risen Christ meets us personally before He sends us publicly.

III. Peace Behind Closed Doors (John 20:19–23)

- **Disciples Hiding in Fear (v.19):** Jesus walks *through the walls* – nothing can block Him.
- **"Peace be unto you" (v.19,21):** He brings **peace before purpose**.
- **He Breathes on Them (v.22):** The same breath that gave life to Adam **now gives spiritual rebirth**.

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 **Key Point:** The resurrection gives us peace, purpose, and power.

IV. Thomas' Doubt Turns into Declaration (John 20:24–29)

- **"Unless I see... I won't believe" (v.25):** Many wrestle with belief, but Jesus doesn't condemn – He *invites*.
- **"My Lord and my God!" (v.28):** Thomas goes from **skeptic to sold-out worshiper**.
- **"Blessed are those who haven't seen and still believe" (v.29):** That's *us* – resurrection faith is forward-looking.

 **Key Point:** Doubt isn't the end of faith – it can be the doorway to deeper revelation.

V. Purpose of the Gospel (John 20:30–31)

- **Written So We May Believe (v.31):** The goal is not just to inform but to transform.
- **By Believing, We Have Life (v.31):** Resurrection isn't a one-time event – it's a **daily reality** for those who believe.

 **Key Point:** This chapter ends with life – because Jesus rose, life is never the same.

Closing Challenge:

Are you living like Jesus got up?

- If the tomb is empty, **your hope is full**.
- If Jesus is alive, **so is your purpose**.
- If He called Mary, Peter, and Thomas – **He's calling you too**.