

The Other Disciple Believed First

By J. Phillips

**“Then went in also that other disciple,
which came first to the sepulchre,
and he saw, and believed.”**

(Jn. 20:8)

The book *The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved* examines the facts in the Biblical record in an effort to establish the identity of the “other disciple” who wrote the fourth gospel but it turns out a key piece of Biblical evidence was overlooked. When the book noted the fact that the “other disciple” was the first one who “believed” after the resurrection of Jesus it focused on *why* he “believed” and missed a truth revealed by the timing of this event.

Being the first one who “believed” differentiates the “other disciple” from “the twelve” and this will be shown by citing what the Bible says happened after the resurrection of Jesus. As you will see this new evidence confirms that the one whom “Jesus loved” was not one of “the twelve” [befitting the label “other” disciple since he was “other” than “the twelve”] and this of course also rules out John.

First let’s consider the record of events as Peter and the “other disciple” visit the vacant tomb of Jesus on that resurrection morning:

“The first [day] of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 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.

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, [and looking in], saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.” (Jn. 20:1-10)

The fourth gospel is the *only* book that tells us about the unnamed “other disciple whom Jesus loved” so this is the only record of the reaction of the “other disciple” to the items that he “saw” in the tomb of Jesus that morning. Nevertheless these verses establish one fact beyond question – the unnamed “other disciple” was the first person that the Bible says “believed” following the resurrection of Jesus.

Scripture tells us that **“the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre... and he saw, and believed”** so we know that he was the first follower of Jesus who “believed” on the morning of the resurrection. Thus he “believed” *before* the rest of the disciples and one can know for certain that the “other disciple” was not one of “the twelve” apostles of Jesus by considering the timing of *their* belief. While the one whom “Jesus loved” clearly “believed” early on the morning of the resurrection the apostles did not believe until much later that day – after they saw Jesus.

“Afterward he [Jesus] appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.”

(Mk. 16:14)

The Bible records the “unbelief” of “the eleven” which lasted until Jesus appeared unto them. “The eleven” had heard of the resurrection of Jesus from those who saw him “after he was risen”, such as the two disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus and later told this to “the eleven” (Lu. 24:13-33). Nonetheless they persisted in “unbelief” *until after* they personally saw Jesus.

So in addition to the Biblical proof presented in *The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved*, we now have even more Biblical evidence that the “other disciple” was someone “other” than “the eleven”, since he “believed” even though he had not seen Jesus but “the eleven” continued in “unbelief” until they saw Jesus for themselves.

The fact that he “believed” early on the morning of the resurrection places the “other disciple” in stark contrast to the “unbelief” of “the eleven” later that day.

The beloved disciple “believed” when he saw the “linen clothes” and “the napkin” inside of the tomb of Jesus. The book *The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved* noted **why** he reacted in this manner but failed to show how when he “believed” reveals that he was “other” than “the twelve”. The Biblical evidence presented in the book proves that this “other disciple” was not John and now we find the Bible providing us even more evidence in this regard.

Sadly, there is no doubt that the man-made John tradition will continue to be promoted by those who want this tradition to be true. Those who defend this tradition will go on reciting the ideas they find in their preferred non-Bible sources (that’s what this tradition is based on). But now they’ll have to turn a blind eye to another piece of Biblical evidence or else they will have to try to explain away this contrast between the “other disciple” and “the twelve”. Either way it is never a good idea to ignore what the Bible says and when one has to cite non-Bible sources to defend their position because they cannot cite even a single verse that would justify teaching what they teach then this in itself should tell us something.

**“Every word of God [is] pure:
he [is] a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”**

(Pr. 30:5)

Find more on the Bible vs. Tradition on the beloved disciple at TheDiscipleWhomJesusLoved.com