

Morning Sermon October 27, 2019

"From Mourning to Morning!" John 20:11-18

I. *Mary Magdalene's love for Jesus was the fruit of the Love she first received from Him –*

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

1. *This is true about all of us, He always loves us first, while we are yet sinners –*

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

2. *This applies even to Mary and others like Abraham who were converted before Christ's death, as Jesus is –*

... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8

3. *Jesus love towards Mary was shown when she was still and obviously dead in trespasses and sins –*

The power of Resurrection love is to make such people ALIVE -

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

- A. *As Nicodemus was known as the one who "came to Jesus by night" Mary Magdalene was known as the one out of whom Jesus cast seven demons –*

and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities— Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, Luke 8:2

Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mark 16:9

- B. *Mary may be the same woman mentioned in Luke 7, who is forgiven much and loves much! If this is not Mary, she is certainly like this woman –*

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7:44-48

- C. *In her being a great sinner, who loved much because she was forgiven much she becomes a sort of spiritual elder sister to the Apostle Paul, who was chief of sinners –*

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 1 Timothy 1:15

4. *Even if our sins, or our pre-Christ situation, filled with seven demons, is not so obviously sinful as Paul's persecuting the church or Mary's ... If we realize payment / getting rid of our sins required Christ's Blood, we should love Him greatly for His great loving sacrifice –*

¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:18–19

This is where the Lord's Supper comes in:

- A. *It reminds us of our great sinfulness*
- B. *It reminds us of Christ's great sacrifice*

"What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." Robert Lowry

II. *Mary Magdalene's love for Jesus made her the brave leader of those who came first to Christ's tomb –*

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. John 20:1

1. *She went to the tomb early – John 20:1*
2. *She went while it was still dark – John 20:1*
3. *She went despite the guard she probably would have expected would still be there –*

So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard. Matthew 27:66

4. *Her early efforts include running to alert others to the empty tomb –*

Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” John 20:2

5. *Application: Come to Christ – EARLY!*

III. Mary’s love which drew her to the tomb early, kept her there when others left –

¹⁰Then the disciples went away again to their own homes. ¹¹But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. John 20:10–11

1. *She wept, remember she thought Jesus still dead - :2*
2. *Yet, this was the last place she knew that He was and she cannot easily leave it –*
 - A. *She speaks to angels –*

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” John 20:11-13

- B. *She speaks to Jesus, at first not knowing it was Him –*

Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” John 20:14-15

- *Her language betrays the fact she still thought Jesus dead*
- *Her sorrow, her tears maybe hinder her vision*
- *She does not recognize Christ standing right in front of her...*

IV. Yet Mary Magdalene’s love is rewarded beyond all expectation –

1. *Jesus’ VOICE awakes Mary’s still drowsy faith –*

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” John 20:16-17

2. *Note it is not the seeing of Jesus, but the hearing of His Voice that awakes Mary’s faith –*

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

- *Resurrection for us comes by hearing Christ’s Voice -*
- Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ... John 5:25-26**

This is why preaching is important and is the IMPORTANT part of hearing preaching / Hearing Christ’s Voice-

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20

3. *Christ’s resurrection overcomes sin and brings us back into right relationship with God –*

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:56

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

“Once she was the Devil’s damsel, filled with demons, filled with sin! But by grace she followed Jesus, despising darkness, stayed near Him! He surprised her that glad morning, first to hear His risen Voice! Glad to hear Him, He is Living! Spread the news so all rejoice!”

Arnold Brevick

... go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” John 20:17

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