

Series: John

Title: Oneness in our Risen Redeemer

Text: John 20: 10-17

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John 20: 10: Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. 11: But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, 12: And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13: And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. 14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Herod and Pilate, Jew and Gentile, had joined themselves together to do the worst they could do to the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, God was ruling it all to bring to pass his eternal purpose to glorify his name in the salvation of his people. They had crucified him. But Christ laid down his life. Our Savior's lifeless body was buried. But death had no more dominion over him. The Lord Jesus arose triumphant from the grave. But how his people need to hear the good news over and over. We need to hear our Savior speak into our hearts as did John,

Revelation 1: 17, 18: Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen

OUR NEED

John 20: 10: Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

Some think they believed Christ had risen, some do not. It seems from the scripture they believed someone had taken his body. They went home again unto their own home. Later, we find them with the door locked for fear of the Jews. That does not sound like they believed he was risen. Thomas certainly did not believe.

Unbelief is sin. If men are trusting their own will and obedience to the law to make them righteous, any sin, any unbelief, any wavering whatsoever entering in, then all is lost. The first law of God commands us to have no other gods but the true and living God. Worship him alone. Trust in him alone. Seek help and comfort from him alone. God requires perfect obedience. It must be perfect to be accepted, God said. Men may imagine they are doing well when the sun shines. But let trouble come and we find ourselves *going away again to our own home.*

The Lord Jesus Christ is the faithful one. He is the holy one. Christ Jesus the Savior is the righteous one. He is immutable in his service to God the Father as the perfect Head and Representative of his people. He is the Righteousness of God, the Righteousness God provided for his people. We must be found robed in his righteousness alone.

By our Saviors perfect, unwavering obedience to the Father, even unto the death of the cross, he made his people the righteousness of God in him. The Lord Jesus conquered sin, death and hell for his people. Child of God, here is the good news! Their unbelief did not change their perfection before God because the righteousness of God's saints is Christ alone.

Those who preach up man's will. Preaching the sinner can come to Christ and believe by his own will or who say once we believe we are kept entirely by our own will, know little, if anything, about the sinful, deceitful, wretched heart within every sinner.

John 6: 44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:

We see in the Lord's disciples that this is so not only before we believe but after. But our Lord Jesus purchased his people with his own blood and he shall not lose one. It is the happiness of the weak to depend upon the strong. And it is the happiness of the weak child of God to depend upon the God of all grace. It is the happiness of us poor, weak sheep to depend upon our good Shepherd. He seeks his lost sheep and brings us home again--not to our home but to our home in HIM! By God's grace we believe, we pray, we seek after Christ but only because Christ works in us. If he let go of our hand, *we go away again to our home*, unbelieving, sad and fearful.

OUR LORD'S GRACE

John 20: 11: But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping:

Last time we saw how Mary had been forgiven much therefore she loved much. When we see a believer do as Mary did here then we give God the glory. It was God's will that she be there. It was the love of Christ working in Mary's heart that made her stay at his tomb. Her affection for Christ was stronger than carnal sense. She, too, was puzzled and full of unbelief. Her heart was breaking. But she would rather wait and weep where she knew her Lord's body was laid than go home again.

1 Corinthians 13:7 [Love] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

She waited at the Lord's tomb.

Psalm 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Christ Jesus is the Mercy Seat. God saves by his continual mercy to his poor, weak, people for the sake of his Son.

John 20: 11...and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre, 12: And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

She was given sight of something the others were not given. She saw *two angels sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain*. Our Lord's body is not there. But this sight reminds us of the ark of the covenant with the cherubims on each side, facing the mercy seat. Isaiah heard them cry, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

Why does God show mercy to his people though we are prone to unbelief. Why does he show mercy to the sinner? For the sake of Christ our Mercy Seat--the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 3:25: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation [mercy seat] through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

WHY DO YOU WEEP?

John 20: 13: And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?

What a question the angels ask her! There would have been far more reason to weep if the Lord's body had been *in* that tomb. Our Lord's body *not* being in that tomb gives us every reason to rejoice.

Why weepest thou? His resurrection from the declares he is God.

Romans 1: 4: ...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

Why weepest thou? Christ resurrection declares his sovereignty over all as the glorified GodMan, the Head of his church.

Romans 4: 9: To this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Ephesians 1: 21: [he is at God's right hand] Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and...22...the head over all things to the church...

Why weepst thou? Our Lord's resurrection from the dead declares Christ justified his people.

Romans 4: 25: He was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.

Why weepst thou? His people arose in him and each one shall be regenerated by him.

1 Peter 1: 3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Acts 5: 31: Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Why weepst thou? His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of our bodies at his return.

1 Corinthians 15: 20: But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21: For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

How often things cast us down and make us weep. But, in time, our Lord, shows us they were really reasons to rejoice. Her tears were needless. Her anxiety was unnecessary. The Lord Jesus was right there the whole time. So it is with us, believer.

WHO SEEKEST THOU?

John 20: 15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepst thou? whom seekest thou?

The Lord Jesus asked her the same question but he asked another? "*Whom seekest thou?*" When reading the scriptures, whom seekest thou? When coming to hear the word preached, whom seekest thou? When we come to his table, whom seekest thou? In the midst of trouble and weeping, whom seekest thou?

When the angels asked why she wept, I love Mary's answer.

John 20: 13: She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

She saw him die. She knew his body was laid in the tomb. She did not know where he now was. But he was still her Lord. She still longed for him!

At first, when she saw the Lord Jesus standing and heard him speak, she did not know that it was him. But when he spoke effectually into her heart,

John 20: 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

That is the title of one who has ultimate power! With that word she expressed her faith, her affection, her reverence, her humility for her Lord and Master. She believed Christ is the Power and Wisdom of God--God himself--her Lord and her Savior.

As we saw last time, when our Lord speaks effectually, his power, makes us know him. His word turns us to him in faith and love. Christ Jesus himself is the Resurrection and the Life. He is the life of the new spirit he gives in regeneration. It is Christ himself who is the strength to believe and rejoice and persevere in faith. Then she fell at his feet and laid hold on him.

John 20: 17: Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father:

He is not forbidding her to touch him--he let the others do so. He is saying, "Let me go for now: for I am not immediately going to ascend to my Father; you will see me again; you will have time with me."

It may be that he would not have her be so taken up with his bodily presence. Now that he is ascended to his Father we know him no more after the flesh but after the spirit. We worship him in spirit in the new heart.

2 Corinthians 5: 16: Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

As he tells Thomas later in *verse 29*:...*blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

1 Peter 1:8: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Do not seek the Lord in carnal blessings. Seek the Lord from the new spirit and seek the Lord in spirit. Seek him through the word. Seek him through faith. The blessings are spiritual. True worship is spiritual.

UNCHANGABLE ONENESS

John 20: 17...but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

He sent here with this word to his disciples. We see our Lord's immutable love and grace toward his sinful people. We see our Lord's faithfulness and love and mercy to his people.

The disciples had all forsaken the Lord when he was crucified? They went away from the tomb in unbelief, at least greatly doubting. Sin was mixed with all of it. Terrible sin! Still, our Savior said, "*Go to MY BRETHREN.*" Oh, what unchanging grace and love to his people!

Romans 8:29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

What about Peter's denial of him? In another place, he said, "And tell Peter." For you who believe by God's grace, yet see your sin and unbelief, please get this word in your hearts.

Hebrews 2:11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* ALL OF ONE: for which cause HE IS NOT ASHAMED TO CALL THEM BRETHREN.

He put away all the sin of his people. He sanctified his people making us perfect by his one offering. He abides in those born of him. Nothing can or will ever change this! "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." Will I be ashamed to call you my brethren? Will you be ashamed to call me your brother? Never, for those Christ has made one in him! This is the sovereign, unchanging love of God in Christ our Savior that makes us one! This is the love of God in the hearts of his people that make us love each other to the end.

Then he declares this inseparable, unchangeable oneness with the next word.

John 20: 17:...say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

The Lord Jesus is God, equal with God the Father, and the Lord Jesus is our God. But he is sending this good news to comfort his troubled disciples. This was a strong word of love for them to renew them and

assure them. He is declaring the oneness between him, his people and God our Father because he is our victorious Head and Representative, the GodMan, Mediator. He declared to them he is risen from the dead and would soon ascend to God his Father. And because he is the Head of his people--the same relation he has to God and his Father, we have to God and our Father in him, *"I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."*

Due to God's covenant of grace made with Christ, due to Christ's obedience fulfilling every covenant promise for his people, due to being born-again of his Spirit, we are in spiritual union with Christ so that we are one with our God and our Father even as Christ is. He is the last Adam, the Elder Brother, who fulfilled all righteousness for every child in the house. He reconciled us to God. So now and for eternity we are accepted in the Beloved forever! Our sin will not change this. Nothing will change this. Christ will keep speaking into our hearts and keep turning us to HIM to know we are one!

John 17: 21: That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Amen!