

The Appearance of the Risen Christ ----- Sunday, August 20, 2023

John 20:14-23

The section we are considering this morning is in TWO Parts: 1) Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene; 2) Jesus Appears to Ten Disciples

I. Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene vv.14-18

A. Misery¹ "Woman, why are you weeping?"

In our last study together, we left Mary Magdalene in tears. She was weeping at the tomb where the body of Jesus had been placed. She was weeping as she stood outside the tomb, but then she looked inside the tomb and saw two angels in white. They were sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. Her emotional state was one of anguish, despair, sorrow, and heartbrokenness. The angel asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Her response: "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him.

You would think Mary would have asked, "where did you come from? Why are you here?" The other gospel writers tell us the angel told Mary and the other women who came after her, "He's not here, He's risen, come see the place where he lay."

Dr. Vance Havner, a country preacher who had an interesting way of preaching, gave out five words to describe Mary Magdalene as she was there at the Empty Tomb of our Lord.

First, Dr. Havner said, there's MISERY. We've been talking about Mary Magdalene's "weeping".

The angels asked, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Jesus asked the same question. A good question. Misery is a real concern.

And just like Mary we can have our moments of "misery". The Lord didn't want her to stay in that condition, and neither does He want us to be overcome with misery. There's much in this world that can give us reason to have heavy burdens, sorrows, grief, and great concerns. But our Lord does not want us to live in a perpetual state of helpless and hopeless misery.

The 2nd key word Dr. Havner used was "Mystery"

B. MYSTERY

¹ [Our Threefold Commission | Vance Havner \(bibleportal.com\)](https://www.bibleportal.com)

“I do not know”, says Mary. I do not know where they put Him.”

For Mary, it's like an UNSOLVED Mystery..... but it won't be unsolved for long.

notice v.14 “Having said this.....she did not know.....it was Jesus”

A few things she didn't know...

- She didn't know where they laid the body of Jesus
- She didn't know Jesus was talking to her
- She didn't know Jesus had RISEN from the dead

(1) Mystery Stranger in the Garden

Mary didn't know who this stranger was in the Garden where the tomb of Jesus was located....Jesus asked Mary TWO Questions:.....(1) Woman, why are you weeping? (2) Whom are you seeking?

Mary supposed this stranger in the Garden was the *gardener*. Maybe he's responsible for moving the body of Jesus. v.15 *“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”*

Now this doesn't mean, Mary will personally “pick up” the body and move it somewhere. I've read that often and thought, “how could she possibly pick up, or drag the body away?” No, actually, she had means to get it done. According to **Luke 8:3** she, along with other women helped to support the ministry of Jesus from their own financial resources. She could have paid someone to move the body.

Mary was seeking the dead body of Jesus. Jesus asked her, “Whom are you seeking?” She should have responded, “I'm looking for the RISEN Messiah” No, her faith wasn't ready to accept the RISEN Lord and Savior. All she could say, “if you have carried him away...that is, his corpse, tell me where...and I will make sure to take him away....*she's implying...she would give him a proper burial.*”

SHE SAW JESUS STANDING, **but she didn't know it was JESUS.....**

Reminds us of the “mystery stranger on the Road to Emmaus”

(2) Mystery Stranger on the Road Luke 24:13-31

On this same SundayResurrection Sunday...in the EVENING..... Jesus appeared to two disciples walking on a road to a place called Emmanus which was about SEVEN miles from Jerusalem.

READ ---- (Luke 24:14-31)

NOW let's go to the 3rd key word ---- MASTER

C. Master

The Disciples there near Emmaus----their eyes were opened and they knew HIM..... **they saw their MASTER.....so did Mary!**

Go back to **John 20:16**

v.16 Jesus said to her.....Mary.... Aramaic, Rabboni! - Teacher

She recognized the voice of Jesus, when he said, "Mary". She turned and said, Rabboni, Teacher

It's what Jesus said in **John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Vance Havner said this.... "the cure for Misery is to see the Master"

Mary's misery is gone.... She sees Jesus.... She clings to Jesus.... no doubt, falling to his feet and clinging to him as if she is preventing him from ever leaving again.

Then we have the Mission. **Mary is given a "mission"**.

D. Mission - v.17 Jesus gives her a mission.

v.17 Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father, but go to my brothers....

My presence in this world will be different. You can't cling to me and keep me here. I have not yet ascended to the Father....but that ascension is coming... Jesus will not be with them day in and day out like it was before his crucifixion.

It's seems Jesus is saying, "you can't cling to me in that way....It won't be like it was...**I will be ascending to the Father.**" *I am in the PROCESS of Ascending to my Father....*

But Here's your mission - - - -

Go to my brothers (this is new...haven't heard the disciples called that before....called slaves and friends.....now BROTHERS....)

v.17I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God

Because of the Lord Jesus...His death and resurrection..... and His exaltation..... ascending..... and then SENDING BACK the Holy Spirit..... we can truly say.... we can call upon God as our FATHER...

Listen to Romans 8:15-17

¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Hebrews 2:11-12

⁹But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why **he is not ashamed to call them brothers**

I am ascending to my Father.....that is, I am in the process of ascending. The ultimate ascension will be visible to the Disciples at the Mount of Olives. ACTS 1:19

The FIFTH WORD - Message - with her mission she has a message....

E. Message - v.18 Mary Magdalene went and announced..... “I have seen ...”

she went and announced to the disciples.....**I have seen the Lord..... Luke 24:11**

- And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

I have seen the Lord....and he had said these things to her

What's got to happen....Jesus will have to appear to the other disciples....

II. Jesus Appears to the Ten Disciples vv.19-23

It's to the TENI thought there were 12 disciples.... one of them, Judas Isacariot, he's out of the picture...he proved to be a false disciple. He betrayed the Lord Jesus.

So that leaves us ELEVEN....but we say TEN because Thomas was not there to witness the Lord's appearance to the Disciples.

Jesus appears to the Disciples for Good Reasons!

A. To Restore their Courage vv.19-20

v.19 Fear - doors were shut (locked)fear of the Jews (their Master was taken away and killed.....they would be next...)

--- Locked doors did not PREVENT Jesus from entering.....you can hide away....lock yourself away somewhere...the Lord KNOWS exactly where you are..... He came to these disciples....to restore their Confidence....their courage..... their faith.....

----**PEACE BE with You**----

Ephesians 2:14-17

¹⁴For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; ¹⁵Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; ¹⁶And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having

slain the enmity thereby: ¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

v. 20 *He showed them his hands and his side* (Luke includes "his feet")

then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord - Here's the secret of Christian Joy

Vance Havner - The Secret of Christian Joy

In John 20:20 we read: "Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord." Here we have the secret of Christian joy: it turns upon those two words, "then" and "when." We are glad when we see the Lord. It does not read, "Then were the disciples glad when they saw themselves." Our verse does not say, "Then were the disciples glad when they saw each other." Nor were these disciples glad when they saw their circumstances. We do not even read that the disciples were glad when they saw a particular doctrine about the Lord. It is the supreme need of the hour that believers should look away from all else, much of which may be good, and see only the Lord. Then shall we have fresh assurance and joy!"

B. To Reaffirm their Purpose v.21

Jesus helps the Disciples in REDIRECTING them to see the GREAT PURPOSE God has given them - **READ v.21**

EVEN So I am sending YOU.

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

"The church is a hospital for sinners, and not a museum for saints". Vance

Havner

We are not a museum for saints....sit on a shelf to be admired by others...

We are on a MISSION....a rescue mission.....We are God's EMT..... sent into the world... to rescue the perishing,

Rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

C. To Reassure their Authority

- 1) v.22 sent with Reassurance..... Power from on High... empowered by the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- 2) v.23 sent with Reassurance....Authority of God's Holy Word

Based on the Word of God.....when someone repents....trust in Jesus alone to save them.....on the authority of God's Word...we can DECLARE they are FORGIVEN.....

Also.... if someone does NOT repent.....refuses Christ..... We are given the authority to declare they are NOT forgiven...

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:18-20 ---referring to the practice of *church discipline*

¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

-----Outline for Church Bulletin-----

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I. Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene vv.14-18

- A. Misery "she was weeping"
- B. Mystery "she did not know"
- C. Master "she turned and said "Rabboni"
- D. Mission Jesus told her "go to my brothers"

E. Message Mary said "I have seen the Lord"

II. Jesus Appears to the Ten Disciples vv.19-23

A. *Restore their Courage.*

B. *Reaffirm their Purpose.*

C. *Reassure their Authority.*