I. Mary Magdalen was the first to see Jesus resurrected. John’s gospel alone gives this very personal glimpse.
   A. Mary Magdalene was a demonized girl who lived in a sizable village called Magdala on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus no doubt had spoken and healed many people.
   B. Jesus turned her from a head case into an ardent and loyal friend, a genuine and vocal disciple.
      (Lk.8:2)

II. Four good questions about this passage and others on Resurrection Day.
   A. Why not appear to Peter and John?
      1. To force them to think biblically. Lk.24:25-26; 44
         a) Faith is knowledge based on God’s word and real evidence.
         b) The evidence of the empty tomb
         c) The evidence of the women’s eye-witness testimony
         d) The evidence of Scripture pointing to this
   B. Why not appear to his enemies? Matt.11:25-30
      1. Because the knowledge of God in Christ is for those who want it!
      2. Because appearing to his enemies will happen at the end of time and they will be killed.
         (Rev.19; 2 Thess.1:5-10)
      3. Because many of his enemies will come to faith through the witness of his friends—this is how mission works.
   C. Why does John add so much more detail in Mary’s case? Jn.1:12-13
      1. To emphasize the new relationship of his disciples to God. 17
         a) In Christ we now have His relationship with the father by spirit adoption. (Rom.8:15-17; Gal.4:4-7)
         b) My Father and your Father; My God and your God
      2. To introduce the idea of his ascension to the right hand of God.
         a) The ascension to that position is the sharing of God’s own throne and glory and command over the entire visible and invisible universe.
   D. Why appear to Mary Magdalen? Why the women in general being the first witnesses to the empty tomb, the angels? (Matt.28:1-10)
      1. Because he uses unlikely witnesses.
         a) Jesus always worked first with the disenfranchised Matt.11:25-30.
         b) Mary had been what we would call a “head-case” until Jesus delivered her and saved her.
         c) Nobody in the 1st century would have made this up this way.
      2. Because Magdalen is in many ways the perfect example of a genuine believer.
         a) She had long since given up her franchise in this age.
            (1) She was not “seeking to save her life in this age.”
         b) She was hopeless without the Lord and she knew it.
            (1) Her complete personal trust for salvation and eternity was solely in Jesus as the Messiah.
         c) She understood that she was in His Grace.
            (1) knew for a fact that he had rescued her and she was intensely, personally loyal to him because of it.
         d) She was therefore willing to do anything to obey Him.
            (1) This is grace grounded, joy-filled discipleship