

Easter 2022 (4.17.22) #22031

John 20:1-18

**I. The resurrection of Jesus Christ changed the destiny of the universe. Rom.8:18-25.**

A. The struggle of this age will be redeemed in a resurrected, redeemed, new creation. The gospel changes everything...

B. And the very first people to see resurrection were Jesus's closest friends.

**II. John relates the eye-witness account of three of Jesus's closest friends. John, Peter, and Mary Magdalene**

**A. She has no idea.... 1-10**

1. 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.

2. Jesus turned her from a head case into an ardent and loyal friend, a genuine and vocal disciple. (Lk.8:2)

**B. She runs to her brothers...**

1. It would have taken a while if they were staying in Bethany.

**C. The Lord meets her. 11-18**

1. Still uncomprehending, she does not recognize Jesus.

**III. Four good questions about this passage and others on Resurrection Day.**

**A. Why not appear to Peter and John?**

1. *Force them to think biblically. Lk.24:25-26; 44*

a) *Faith is knowledge based on God's word and 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!*

a) *The friends of Jesus. Jn.10:27; Matt.11:25-30; Jn.1:12-13*

2. *Because appearing to his enemies will happen at the end of time, as a judgment. (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.*

c) *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. Eph.1*

b) *More on this in Acts 1*

**D. Why appear to Mary Magdalene? 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. (Women were the first)*

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 1<sup>st</sup> century would have made this up this way.*

2. *Because Magdalen is in many ways the perfect example of a genuine disciple.*
- a) She had long since given up her franchise in this age.
    - (1) She was not “seeking to save her life in this age.”
    - (2) Lk 17:33. We can’t keep our lives here anyway. Jim Elliott, He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.
  - 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 knew that she was in His Grace.
    - (1) knew for a fact that he had forgiven and 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

**IV. The Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ is what God had always planned to change the destiny of the world and any of us in the world who would receive Him. Jn.1:12-23**

- A. If you are a Christian, meditate on the Resurrection until the vision of glory fills your mind. You will be in His presence forever.
- B. If you are not yet a Christian, put away your religious stuff and come to the Risen Lord. Come live forever.
- C. Come and talk with me today, or any of our pastors, and be baptized.