

Weeping to Witnessing

"Then the disciples went back to their homes, ¹¹but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵"Woman," He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that He had said these things to her."

- John 20:10-18

In this Series, We Will Learn That...

There is a beginning and ending to everything. We need to welcome changes and look for the opportunities they provide.

How Important is the Resurrection?

1. It is this event which proves that Jesus is the Son of God.

"...and who through the Spirit of holiness was **declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.**"

- Romans 1:4

2. It is the sign that He gave for His authority.

"Then the Jews demanded of Him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But the temple He had spoken of was His body. ²²After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken."

- John 2:18-22

3. It is the only reason for our faith and preaching!

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

- 1 Corinthians 15:14

4. It is what anyone who wants salvation must believe.

"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

- Romans 10:9

Mary Believed and Expressed Her Belief

1. John had seen something that caused him to believe, but Peter was still doubting. Both men returned home. (Danger!)

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews..."

- John 20:19

2. Mary was grief-stricken and stays at the tomb. She bent down to look one more time and she saw something new.

- This reminds us of something from the Old Testament!

"When Moses entered the Tent of Meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to Him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the Testimony. And He spoke with him."

- Numbers 7:89

"He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it."

- Leviticus 16:15

3. The angels gently scold Mary.

"They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

- John 20:13

4. Mary was convinced that her Lord's body had been stolen.

"So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!"

- John 20:2

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him."

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"...telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'"

- Matthew 28:13

5. Maybe the angels gestured or maybe Mary heard something, but she turns and sees Jesus, whom she did not recognize.

Why didn't she recognize Him?

6. Jesus began by asking her questions. This was His method in teaching, and we need to employ it more often!

7. Mary expressed her doubt (she believes that Jesus is dead) and her faith ("I will get Him") in the same answer.

8. Jesus simply spoke her name, and she turned and cried out! She said, "Rabboni" which is a term of respect and yet relationship.

9. Jesus told her not to cling, but to tell! He used terms that He had never used before (*brothers, your Father, and your God*).

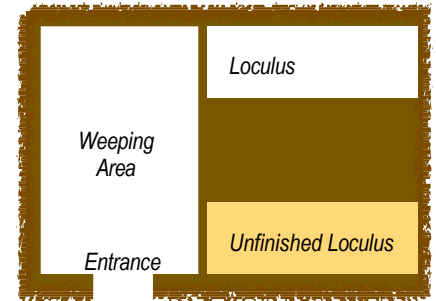
"Go instead to **my brothers** and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and **your Father, to my God and your God.**'"

- John 20:17

10. Mary obeyed and became the first witness of the risen Christ.

"Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "**I have seen the Lord!**" And she told them that He had said these things to her."

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How About You?

Have you stopped clinging and started witnessing?

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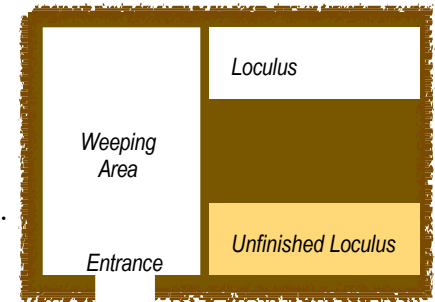
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