



From John 11 and 20 11:23

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”... 38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”... 43 He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” 20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Discussion Notes and Questions

How do we “arrive like Mary” and “leave like John?”

Arriving like Mary (Madalene)

- Mary had seven evil spirits cast out of her. Was probably mentally ill.
- Mary originally came to Jesus first when it was dark – actually and metaphorically.
- Mary arrives again, on Easter Sunday, in darkness (before Sunrise).
- Jesus died in darkness. Mary was not there and didn’t get to participate in the funeral.
- Here in our time, is it not dark? As a nation, a town? Individually?
 - *How many times have people died alone in these days of Covid-19?*
 - *Finances in darkness?*
 - *How many special events cancelled or delayed? Wedding? Graduations?*
- Other instances of approaching or dealing with Jesus in darkness
 - Nicodemus also comes in darkness.
 - Judas betrays Jesus at night.
 - Jesus disciples slept in the Garden as Jesus sweat blood.
 - Jesus was awake in the darkness.
- Maybe this time of “normality” being stripped away we have the opportunity to face darkness that we previously had avoided?
 - *What might this look like for us, individually? As a family? A church? A community?*
 - *What does it look like, then, to arrive like Mary Magdalene, at the place where Jesus lies in death?*
 - *What would this feel like if we arrived like? How has it felt for you in the past?*

Leaving like John

- What is John brought to believe before he leaves seeing Jesus’ tomb?
- What was his answer for death before arriving at the tomb?
 - *What is yours, ours, in practice?*
- John’s leaves with this answer to death: believing in a real, physical, bodily resurrection.
- What sort of adversary was death to Jesus? How do we see this in his approach to Lazarus’ death? What are Jesus’ tools as he faces Lazarus’ death? Or even his own?
 - *What are ours, in practice?*
- What is the relevance of Jesus’ resurrection to the ways in which we lay actually and/or metaphorically bound in death?
 - *What were some of the ways we are bound in death? Tim listed many before the close of his sermon.*
 - *How do we “begin to be unbound”? Where does it start?*