

DON'T COUNT ME

S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

Don't Count Me Out

Matthew 27:55-61, 28: 1-8

NOTES INTRODUCTION We have perfected the art of discarding people when they are no longer deemed useful. We have mastered the art of disposing of people once their value has been extracted. But I want to challenge us to become countercultural in this regard. In today's key text, Mary makes it clear that when others try to disqualify you, you don't have to let them count you out. There is another path to take. **KEY POINTS** 1. You Don't Have To Be Popular To Be Powerful Dr. King said that we all must be convinced of our somebodyness; that we are who God says we are and there is nothing or no one who can separate us from the love of God. Such selfawareness is key to stepping into our God-given assignment. This woman, one they called "the other Mary," is a powerful reminder that in the eyes of God, no one is counted out. Her presence and her power remind us that we serve a God who dismantles societal divisions that aim to marginalize people. Even though her life, her potential, her voice, her strength, and her destiny are devaluated by others, she doesn't let their labels stop her. 2. Don't Be Crippled By Criticism Mary was the type of person who refused to let the perspectives of others block her progress. Despite their criticism, she refused to let the views of others cripple her. It's one thing to be criticized by the world, but it's another to be criticized by someone like Matthew, a leader in the Lord's church. Sometimes, some of the cruelest people you'll ever meet are in the church. But despite these critiques, she was not crippled. She's still present. She's still standing. She's still alive. She may have lost her Lord and Savior. But she's got a lot left. She did not allow the criticism of others to stop her contribution to the Kingdom.

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She did not need their validation to determine her worth. She did not let their labels diminish her. Instead, she finds hope and opportunity in the midst of despair. Her presence at the tomb was no accident; it was a divine appointment with destiny, and just as this "other Mary" had a unique role to play, all of us have a contribution to make as well. But in order to do so, we must not be crippled by criticism.

3. Don't Let Your Struggles Prevent You From Showing Up

What I find fascinating about this passage is why "the other Mary" comes to the tomb of Jesus Christ. She does not come because there's something she's expecting to obtain. She's not there because there's something she hopes to receive. She's there for the express purpose of anointing Jesus' body and preparing Him for burial. She was not looking for something in return; she was simply performing this selfless act on behalf of the one she regarded as her Savior.

Even in the midst of her pain, she still showed up. What an incredible she sets for us as she chooses to show up and serve despite her broken heart.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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- 2. When was a time you were tempted to be crippled by criticism? How did you overcome that temptation?
- 3. What is one practical way you can show up and serve in the midst of your own struggles?

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