

Where, Death is your Victory?

John 20:1-23

vs. 1, On the first day of the week.

Mary Magdalene -> came to the tomb (deep grief and loss)

The stone is has been moved. Something is wrong.

vs. 2, She runs to tell Peter and the other disciple (John).

“They’ve taken the Lord out of the tomb, and **we** don’t know where they’ve put him!”

vs. 3-7, What happens next?

- Peter and John run to the tomb to see for themselves.
- John gets there first.
- John looks into the tomb and sees the linen cloths lying there.
- Peter gets there and immediately enters the tomb.
- He too sees the linen cloths, but also notices the wrapping that had been on Jesus’ head is nicely folded and in a separate place by itself.

->Who has most recently been raised from the dead?

Lazarus (11:44)

->What condition was Lazarus in when he exited the tomb?

He was wearing his grave-clothes. The burial cloth was still wrapped around his head. He needed help with the removal of the cloth.

->This is not true of Jesus.

vs. 8, The other disciple (John) believed.

Belief takes place before full understanding.

Before full understanding of Scripture.

Before full understanding given through the Holy Spirit.

Yet all come together for assurance of the truth of Jesus (life, death, and resurrection).

vs. 11, Mary is still trying to wrap her head around what is going on.

vs, 13, 15, Why are you crying?

John 16:20 Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy.

Mary is struggling to lift her head beyond “earthly” things.

Take a moment and think about this through the lens of the kingdom.

Who are you looking for?

Question: When darkness is thick, when circumstances seem beyond overwhelming, what is your expectation of Jesus?

Are you willing to reflect on his words?

Do you ponder his character?

Do you embrace how he has been faithful in the past?

Do you lift your head beyond self?

Are you observant of Jesus’ activity in the lives of others?

Is our estimation of Jesus “far too small”?

vs. 16, Mary...

Immediately Mary knows the voice that she hears. Teacher!!

John 10:3-4 The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Mary has moved from deep grief to joyous belief!

vs. 17, Don't cling to me.

Don't allow yourself to be overly attached to my physical presence.

John 6:63 The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn't help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

It will be the Spirit that remains a lasting presence!

Now is the time for joy and for you to share the good news.

"I have not yet ascended to the Father". -> I am in the process of ascending to my Father and your Father.

The hour had arrived and has been in process beginning with his betrayal and continuing through the cross and now the resurrection. It would culminate in his exaltation.

New Creation is in motion.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Go to my brothers...

My Father and your Father

My God and your God

Renewal offers kinship. You are a child of God. You are a member of the royal family.

Mary and the other women are the first to see the risen Christ!

NT Wright calls Mary "the apostle to the apostles".

The testimony of women was not regarded as reliable.

At first the other disciples did not believe Mary's testimony.

Mark 16:10-11 She went and reported to those who had been with him, as they were mourning and weeping. **11** Yet, when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe it.

Luke 24:9-11 Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest. **10** Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them were telling the apostles these things. **11** But these words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women.

- This detail of the story is of critical importance.
- The Kingdom of Heaven listens to and empowers women.
- Women can be used in every gifting and calling as their male brothers.

John highlights these truths throughout his gospel. There is power in the witness of women.

- Mary the mother of Jesus (2:3-5)
- The Samaritan Woman (4:39-42)
- Mary Magdalene (20:18)

Question: Are you willing to listen to the wisdom of your sisters in Christ?