

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Find Jesus - Find Hope

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday



What are you looking for today? What are you searching for?

John 20:1-18 (NLT) Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb & found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ² She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, & we don’t know where they have put him!” ³ Peter & the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴ They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter arrived & went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up & lying apart from the other wrappings. ⁸ Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— ⁹ for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then they went home.

¹¹ Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, & as she wept, she stooped & looked in. ¹² She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head & the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her. “Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “& I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ She turned to leave & saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. ¹⁵ “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, & I will go and get him.” ¹⁶ “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him & cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). ¹⁷ “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father & your Father, to my God & your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene found the disciples & told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message

Luke 8:1-2 (NLT) “Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns & villages, preaching & announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, ² along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits & diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out 7 demons.”

Because Christ has risen from the dead...

- **We have Hope.**

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1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV) “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

- **We have Healing.**

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT) Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Romans 3:23 (NLT) “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

St. Augustine famously stated that: “The essence of sin is disordered love.”

1 John 4:9-10 (NLT) “God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”

- **We have a Home.** v. 16-17

John 1:12 (NLT) “But to all who believed him & accepted him, he gave the right to become children on God.”

Big Idea: Place your faith in Christ to find Hope, Healing, & Home.

Jeremiah 29:13-14 (AMP) “Then [with a deep longing] you will seek Me and require Me [as a vital necessity] and [you will] find Me when you search for Me with all your [whole] heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” says the Lord...”

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's service are from the New Living Translation (NLT), the New International Version (NIV), and the Amplified Bible (AMP)



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Find Jesus - Find Hope
#2 of 2 - March 31, 2024

- 1) As you reflect on the Easter weekend, the cross and the empty tomb, what do you sense God saying to you?
- 2) What are you searching for? What are you looking for today?
- 3) Read John 20:1-18. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 6) What does this encounter with Mary Magdalene reveal about Jesus and us?
- 7) Read 1 John 4:9-10. What does this tell us about God’s love for us?
- 8) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways do you need to apply this truth today? How does this truth give you hope, healing, and a sense of home today?
- 9) What specific steps is God asking you to take this week?
- 10) Take time to pray for one another.



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