

When Jesus Calls Your Name
Easter, 2023
John 20

1. Based on what you have read and your own familiarity with the text, have someone in the group retell the story of early Easter morning through the eyes of Mary Magdalene.

John 20:1-10 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. 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." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

For almost 2,000 years, critics have tried to debunk the resurrection by claiming either that Jesus never died on the cross, or that the disciples stole and hid the body of Jesus.

2. What might you say to refute the erroneous claim? How would you support that with Scripture?

3. Using whatever study tools you can, put together a biblical background on what we know about Mary of Magdala, both before and after Jesus.

Before

After

4. After the resurrection of Jesus, He was seen by many who knew Him. In our text of this weekend, three are mentioned. Name them.

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- .
- .

Can you locate other appearances of Jesus after His resurrection.

5. What is the Gospel? People get confused about this question because they have heard so many conflicting answers. It's always best to let the Bible speak for itself.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8: *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me.*

The above text can be outlined in this way. The Gospel...

- Christ died for our sins.
Proof: He was buried (you don't bury live people)
- He was raised on the third day
Proof: He was seen

The resurrection of Jesus is everything. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the cross means nothing. His good life means nothing. His birth means nothing. His mission and our salvation rests squarely on the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hosanna!

6. End by sharing about a time you heard Jesus calling your name (probably not audibly, but you knew He was speaking to you).