

Mary WEEPS at the tomb

Mary was from Magdala on the shore of Galilee and had likely heard Jesus teach at their synagogue. When she first met him she was possessed by seven demons, whom he removed (Luke 8:1, 2). From the profound ways Jesus changed her life, she went to the tomb to finish anointing his body. *No one can replace your personal touch on the Kingdom of God!* After seeing the stone removed and going to get Peter and John, once they leave, she stays and weeps that his body's been taken. Though he died as a criminal, she has no shame being associated with Jesus. As most of her meaningful relationships were likely through Jesus and his followers, she shows up with others that Jesus transformed. *For those hearts Jesus has deeply changed, there is deep appreciation* (Luke 7:47)!

Mary SPEAKS to the gardener

When Mary finally looks in the tomb, she sees angels as men sitting on the slab where Jesus laid. Asking why she's crying, she explains that Jesus' body has been taken as that seemed to be the only logical explanation. *What can often seem like the only way to us doesn't take into account God's way for us!* As she leaves the tomb, she sees a man who she assumes to be a gardener or caretaker. Maybe from early morning fog or her blurred eyes from crying she doesn't recognize Jesus at first. Once Jesus asks her why she's crying, she asks if he is the one who took the body. *Sometimes our expectations around us blind us to God's presence in front of us!*

Mary HEARS his voice

It isn't until he speaks her name "Mary," she recognizes her teacher and friend. This shows Jesus has loving, interpersonal relationships with people, and that the same relationships continue after death. *God doesn't just know about us, but He knows us!* In ancient cultures, a women's testimony wasn't permissible in court so it's both surprising and impressive God used women to be witnesses to the greatest miracle in history! Expecting to see Roman soldiers, Mary and multiple other women were the first brave people to get up early and go care for Jesus' body. Then, what they thought was going to be a depressing start to their day turned into the best start to their life! *God can turn your worst day into your best day!*