

ALL !N WITH JORDAN EASLEY

I Have Seen The Lord

Encounters With Jesus | Part 3 | John 20:11-18

INTRODUCTION

Walter Dixon was a soldier in the Korean War who was captured in combat. After a long time, the military presumed he was dead and sent a letter to his family declaring him "killed in action." His family grieved, held a funeral, and tried to move on. Two years later, there was a knock at the door. When they opened it, Walter was standing there, alive. The weeping started again, but this time, they were tears of joy. The son they thought was gone had returned.

That story is a picture of Easter. The world thought Jesus was dead and gone. Hope was crucified on a cross and buried in a tomb. But on the third day, Jesus walked out alive. In this passage from John 20, we see the very first person Jesus appeared to after His resurrection: Mary Magdalene. Her encounter shows us the heart of the resurrection and what it means for our lives today.

KEY POINTS

1. Her Desperation: She Sought Jesus Through Her Tears

The Bible says Mary stood outside the tomb crying. The original language suggests a loud wailing, a full-body expression of grief. She believed her Savior was gone, and to make it worse, His body was missing. In first-century Jewish culture, a proper burial was sacred, so this was a final, disgraceful blow. Yet in this moment of deep sorrow, Jesus stood behind her. Even when we cannot see Him through our tears, He is closer than we realize. Our most desperate moments can become doorways to divine encounters. He sees your pain and stands with you in the garden of sorrow.

2. Her Discovery: She Heard Jesus Call Her Name

It is interesting that Mary did not recognize Jesus at first, mistaking Him for the gardener. But then, Jesus said one word: "Mary." In that moment, her eyes were opened, and she knew it was the One who had loved, delivered, and walked with her. Jesus says in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me." Not only does Jesus see you, He knows you. He knows your name, your past, and your pain, and He still calls you forward. He knows who you have been, but He also knows who you can become in Him.

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3. Her Declaration: She Shared What She Had Seen

When Mary realized it was Jesus, she clung to Him. But He gave her a mission: "Don't cling to me... But go to my brothers and tell them." She did not have a sermon or a theological treatise, but she had a testimony: "I have seen the Lord!" In that culture, a woman's testimony was not even considered valid in court. Yet, Jesus chose Mary to be the first witness of His resurrection. This is the upside-down Kingdom of God. He gives a voice to the voiceless and a mission to the broken. When Jesus changes your life, you cannot keep it to yourself.

Mary's encounter with the risen Christ moves from desperation to discovery and finally to declaration. This is the path for every believer. An encounter with Jesus is not about simply knowing facts about Him; it is about meeting Him personally, responding to His call, and surrendering your life to Him. When you truly see the Lord, you cannot keep it to yourself.

Like Mary, we are given a mission. Jesus does not want us to just cling to our salvation experience for ourselves. He commands us to go and tell others what we have seen and heard. Your story of transformation is a powerful testimony to the reality of the resurrected King. Jesus gives you a voice and a purpose. Do not hide what He came to heal. Use your voice to declare, "I have seen the Lord!"

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what seasons of sorrow or confusion have you struggled to see Jesus, and how does Mary's story encourage you to look for Him even through your tears?
2. Jesus called Mary by name. How does the truth that Jesus knows you personally, including your past and your pain, change the way you see yourself and your relationship with Him?
3. Jesus gave Mary a mission: "Go and tell." What is your personal testimony, and what practical steps can you take this week to share with others that you "have seen the Lord"?
