

• **Tombs's represent everything that is broken.**

• Self-help manuals might get you through a bad mood or a tough patch. But what about an abusive childhood or a debilitating accident or years of chronic pain or betrayal?

• **Does God have a word for your dark moments?**

• Weeping may last through the night, and the next night, and the next. This is not new news to you, but this may be: "Joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5). Night might delay the dawn, but it cannot defeat it. Morning comes. And with it comes joy.

• That's what Resurrection morning brought to the early believers.

• Do you need this promise? Mary Magdalene did.

✓ **She had seven demons.**

• Maybe she'd been abused, abandoned. Perhaps she was a recluse or a prostitute.

• **The number seven is used in the Bible to describe completeness. It could be that Mary Magdalene was completely consumed with troubles.**

• Something broke her. That's where they found their opportunity.

• Jesus stepped into her world and when he spoke, the demons fled.

• From that day forward, everywhere Jesus went, Mary Magdalene followed. She heard him teach. She saw him perform miracles. She was always near Christ, even at his crucifixion.

• **On that Friday, Mary Magdalene watched Jesus die.**

• What we call good was **BAD** to them. Why? Because there was no Resurrection.

• No one was finding glory in the cross.

• **The promise of resurrection and eternal life cannot be fully appreciated without understanding the pain and suffering it took to procure that promise.**

• *We have tamed and watered down the true extent of Christ's suffering in this moment.*

• *In the last few hours of Jesus' life what did He endure, and what shame did He suffer?*

• **And being in agony, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. Luke 22:44**

• **It was here that Jesus agonized in prayer over what was to occur.**

• **It is significant that this is the only place in the KJV where the word "agony" is mentioned. The Greek word for agony means to be "engaged in combat"**

• Here is what He suffered during those hours.

• **He had been taken to Pilate where He was abused by Pilate's soldiers:**

• **Scourged –**

• It is at this point that Jesus suffers a severe physical beating. During a flogging, a victim was tied to a post, leaving his back entirely exposed. The Romans used a whip, called a flagrum or flagellum which consisted of small pieces of bone and metal attached to a number of leather strands. Roman law did not put any limits on the number of blows given. During the flogging, the skin was stripped from the back, exposing a bloody mass of muscle and bone.

• **Beaten – Spit upon – Beard pulled out – Crowned with thorns – Mocked.**

• He was sentenced to die and suffered along the Via Dolorosa, (The Way of Suffering – 650 yards long). He carried His cross, 110 pounds)

• Then **He submitted Himself** to the horrible death of the cross.

• **Cross- EXCRUCIATE: to cause great agony, torment**

• He suffered at Calvary: He was nailed to the cross, (Nails were 7" long and 1" in diameter). The nails through the median nerve would cause massive spasms to wrack His body.

• **the phrase "where they crucified Him" condenses over 18 hours of suffering into four words.**

✓ **When she arrived at the tomb, the nightmare of the last three days grew even darker.**

- She'd come to the tomb early that morning. Before the sun was up. Before anyone knew that the Son got up.

- **She came to pour oil on her pain. She can't take it away but maybe she can alleviate some of her suffering.**

- **11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping...**

- **Have you ever had a moment like this? A moment in which bad news became worse? You came looking for God and couldn't find him?**

- *Are you looking for the right thing in the wrong place?*

- **When is God coming to my broken place?** He's already been there. He moved.

- Assuming that grave robbers had taken the body, she hurried to find Peter and John.

- *They ran to the tomb, found it empty, then left to tell the rest of the disciples on what they had seen.*

- **✓ We expect the camera lens of the gospel to follow them.**

- Her face was awash with tears. Her shoulders heaved with sobs.

- **11 As she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.**

- She could not see the super for the sorrow of the natural.

- **When you have been broken bad enough, you can no longer see the supernatural at work in your life.**

- **13 Then they said to her, "Woman, She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." 14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener,**

- **said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."**

- Statement of strength in brokenness. I'll take Him away... Trying to be strong...

- **16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!"**

- *Maybe it was the way he said her name. The inflection. The tone. The Galilean accent. Maybe it was the memory associated with it, the moment she first heard someone say her name without demons screaming it in her mind.*

- In a second. In a pivot of the neck. In the amount of time it took to rotate her head from this way to that, her world went from dead Jesus to a living one.

- **She came to prepare his body for burial and say goodbye.**

- **He came to say good morning!**

- **"Weeping may last through the night" (Psalm 30:5).**

- **You are everything to God!**

- If we could we examine the empty grave with them, we'd find something else. Laying in the corner, in the dust, doomed to be sealed and buried forever...your stack of **I can't's**.

- **God buried your I can't's in the grave of Christ. Every last one of them. You say you can't forgive someone? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't survive the struggle? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't hang on any longer? You can't, but with Christ you can.**

- **11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you... Romans 8:11**

- **The same force that raised Christ from the dead will turn your "I can't's" into "I cans!"**

- Easter changes everything!

- **The greatest news in the world is not that God made the world, but that God loves the world. He loves you.**
- He's been hanging around the broken place.
- He's about to call your name!