

Christ Is Risen

I. Slide1a Intro:

A. Slide1b/c Spoiler alert: (whisper) *The Tomb was Empty!!!*

B. Pray:

C. **This Easter** I'm focusing on *Resurrection change* to one person, **Mary Magdalene**.

1. Slide1d Ken Gire said, *It was in a garden ages ago that **paradise was lost**, & it is in a garden now that it would be **regained**.*
 - a) Mary Mag is mentioned **14 x's** in the Gospels. 8 of the 14 she is named w/the other ladies and *she is **always mentioned 1st***. (only in 1 verse is she mentioned after Mary, Jesus' mom). *The 5 x's she's mentioned **alone** are in connection w/**Jesus' death & res**.*
 - b) It was such a *horrible & hopeless* case, in which she couldn't help herself, **nor** could any human help her. *She needed Jesus*. Mark 16:9 *Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared **first to Mary Magdalene**, from whom he had cast out seven demons. **Proving**, for any of you who thought the roof might fall in if you go to church, *No depth of sin, nor possession of numerous demons, shall separate us from the love of God! :)**
2. There is not *a shred of evidence* that she had a *bad reputation*.
3. Slide3 Her devotion: No woman superseded *her holy fidelity to the Master*.
 - a) She was **last at the cross**. She was **earliest to the grave**. She was the **1st person to witness the resurrection**. She was **1st to be commissioned to herald the news of His resurrection**. She was **never the same ... after meeting Jesus**.

D. Slide4 Read: John 20:11-18

II. Slide5 HE CALLS YOU WHEN YOU'RE W/O HOPE (11-15) READ

- A. The **angels** ask, *why are you weeping?* **Jesus** asks, *why are you weeping?*
- B. The resurrection is about ... turning *Tears into Joy ... Sorrow into Hope*.
- C. **Think about it:** Jesus could have went knocking on *Pilate's* door **or** could have confronted *the high priest (I'm back!)*. **But** the 1st person our resurrected Lord appears to is a woman w/o hope. **And** His 1st words, *Woman, why are you weeping?*
1. He doesn't shout His resurrection from a housetop, **instead** quietly to a woman who **grieves**. Who desperately needs to **hear His voice, see His face, feel His embrace**.
 - a) What a Savior we serve, *or rather*, who **serves us!** (Ken Gire)
- D. **Hopelessness or Emptiness may feel like a tomb**. Loneliness, addiction, or death of a loved one, may feel like a tomb. [**Whether it's a tomb of my own making. A tomb of unfairness. Or a tomb of past hurts**]
1. Listen to this: *Jesus walked out of His tomb, in order to walk into yours*.
 2. He wants to breathe **life & hope** into **you** this morning. We need hope every morning. **And Easter Hope ... is an every morning Hope**.

III. Slide6 HE IS OFTEN MISIDENTIFIED (14,15)

- A. **Supposing him to be the gardener?** Well, maybe not far off, at this moment He had come into the garden **to lift up one drooping flower**.
- B. **Have you misidentified Jesus?** **Some** cling to a safe *cute lil baby Jesus*. **Others** cling to the *passive why can't all religions just get along Jesus*. **Others** are fearful of Him as the *Temple Terminator*. **Others** cling to a *cool Jesus*. **But He is** the *Living/Ruling/Reigning/Victorious/King of Kings & Lord of Lords Jesus*.

IV. Slide7 HE CALLS YOU BY NAME (16)

- A. He not only **knows** you by name, **but calls** you by name. [Jesus said in Jn.10:3, *He calls His own sheep by name*].
1. *What a tender moment* when Jesus said, **Mary!**

- a) When **He** calls her by name **He** immediately comes into **focus**.
Like when I depress my *shutter release ½ way down* on my camera.
Focus is **immediate**. That's what happened here.
 - b) *Has Jesus become blurry to you?* That happens to us when *our eyes fill w/ tears* from *devastating circumstances*. **Everything** starts to get *blurry*.
Jesus gets *blurry*, and **His voice** becomes *strangely unfamiliar*.
 - c) **It's then**, when **Jesus** just speaks your name. *And you blink away the tears of unbelief or confusion*. [wait for your 1-word today, where all of a sudden ya get it!]
2. **And then Mary's recognition of Him** and cry in her heart language/Aramaic, *Rabboni/teacher*. Most rabbi's wouldn't teach women back then. **But** the 1st word that comes to *the disciple* Mary's mind, *Rabboni!* (there was a saying that a disciple "*was to be covered by the dust of his rabbi.*")
 3. It's one of the **emotional highlights** of the entire Gospel. (Shepherds Notes; pg.89)

V. Slide8 **HE SENDS YOU ON A MISSION (17,18)**

- A. **Augustine**, the 4th-cent orthodox theologian, gave **Mary Magdalene** the *honorific title "Apostle to the Apostles"*. [apostle = one divinely sent]
- B. **Mary** was not to be *clinging* to Him, **but she** was to *go and give* His message.
 1. Last month a number of us got to go see the empty tomb In Israel.
But we are not called to **linger** there, **nor make a shrine out of it**, **but are to go declaring the fact** of it!
 2. **Mary** was changed from a **mourner** to a **missionary** when she met the living Lord.
 - a) **Jesus** interrupts this precious moment by giving her a pressing errand to run.
And run she does with the *1st Easter Sermon, I have seen the Lord!*
- C. **Like Mary**, we should *live our lives* at the foot of the cross. *Stand in front of the empty tomb. Have faith* in His resurrection. **And** tell the world, *I have seen the Lord*. How?

1. I have seen the Lord in **my life change**. I have seen the Lord in **my worship time**. I have seen the Lord in **my bible reading**. I have seen the Lord in **my life**. I have seen the Lord in **friends and family members lives**.

D. END

- E. Slide9 Mt.28:9 *And as they (2 Mary's) went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, **Rejoice!** So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.*
1. Rejoice, **our Happy Source in the Resurrection of our Jesus**.
 2. Rejoice, **in a transformation only Jesus can bring you**.
 - a) A **lizard** w/snorkel gear, is *not equal to* a **frog**. **And** neither is...
A **caterpillar** that *clips a set of wings* on its back, **then** calls itself a **butterfly**.
 - b) An **inward** transformation must take place. Same with us.
 - c) We must be born *from above*. Christ must invade our life, & perform a creative act, a *metamorphosis transformation*.
 - d) **And** what a **caterpillar** calls the end, the rest of the world calls a **butterfly**.
 - e) Are there any **caterpillars** this morning that would like to become a **butterfly**?

F. In this last song, the 2nd bridge is us saying, *I'll witness it*.

1. To the **broken** I'll witness it. To the **hurting** I'll witness it. To the **lost** I will witness it. **And** I'll tell them this. I'll tell them what I've witnessed.
2. To my **family** I'll witness it. To my **city** I'll witness it. To the **nations** I'll witness it. **And** I'll tell them this. I'll tell them what I've witnessed.