

When Jesus Calls You By Name

Pastor Gregg Brenes

When the resurrected Jesus shows up and calls us by name, the way we see everything else radically changes.

They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. John 20:9-10

Mary didn't go home.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. John 20:11

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." John 20:13-15

- **Mary doesn't understand what's happening.** (v. 9)
- **Mary doesn't find what she is looking for.** (v. 13)
- **Mary doesn't recognize Jesus.** (vs. 14-15)

The One who created Mary and knows her like no one else... shows up and calls her by name.

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). John 20:16

Because Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, everything *now* has changed.

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" John 20:17

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... 1 Peter 1:3

- **Despair to Hope**
- **Bad news to Good news**

One word from Jesus changes the lens for how you see everything.

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:18

Let's Connect

- Do you wear glasses or contacts? How does wearing them change the way you see?

Let's Talk About It

The Resurrection is not just a historical event and fact that we celebrate – it becomes the lens through which we see the world around us. God wants to upgrade the lens through which we see Him and the world around us. When the resurrected Jesus shows up and calls us by name, it radically changes how we see everything else. At the tomb, Mary is weeping because of what she cannot understand, what she cannot find, and what she cannot recognize. The very thing she was looking for, and the very thing she needed... was right there, and she didn't see him. And then one word changed everything.

John 19:30; John 20:1-18; 1 Peter 1:3

- Take a next step in your relationship with God and attend Freedom Weekend:



- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read John 20:1-10. If you weren't a firsthand witness to something incredible (for instance, the moon landing), what would it take to convince you it happened?
- Read John 20:11-18. In what ways do you feel God's presence in your life? What are some of the subtle ways God reveals Himself to you?
- Pastor Gregg described Mary's despair because she couldn't understand what was happening, couldn't find what she was looking for, and couldn't recognize Jesus. Which of those frustrations and heartaches do you identify with? Where do you need Jesus to show up in your life?
- Read John 20:16-18. When have you experienced Jesus calling you by name? Did you turn to God to receive new life? How did this experience transform your life and the way you see the world around you?

Take a Step

- What is one thing you can begin doing to see and experience God in a greater way?

Here's My Prayer

Father, thank You for being near to me even when I can't see You or understand what You're doing. Please reveal Yourself to me in a greater way so I can serve You and honor You with my life. In Jesus' name, amen.