

May 30, 2021

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

The Gospel: Ep. 7 Living The Resurrection Life

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John 20:11-18

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ **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."¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").¹⁷ 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.'"¹⁸ 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.

Choosing life- Romans 8:6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life¹. Moses

1. Tomb Gazers-

- **Vs. 13** They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"
 - **Tomb gazing:** Mary was approaching Jesus from a perspective of death.
 - **A garden redeemed:** Jesus did not meet Mary in the tomb, but rather in the garden.
 - **Genesis 3:23** So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.
 - **John 15:5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

The resurrection life begins when we stop being transfixed by tombs and become awestruck with the life Jesus offers in the garden.

¹ Deuteronomy 30:19a

2. Making sense of tombs

- **Vs.15-17** 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.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).
 - **Question:** Why didn’t Jesus destroy the tomb?
 - **Perspective-** In one word Jesus not only changes Mary’s entire perspective, but meets here in her deepest pain. That word was, “Mary”.
 - There is a difference between minimizing your pain and addressing it directly, between avoiding your hurt and taking victory over it.
- 1. Wake up- Thank you
- 2. Be aware of when you are looking at tombs
- 3. Surround yourself with life.

Fact: You either live like Jesus raised from the dead or like he didn’t.

Small Group Questions:

1. How do we approach life from a resurrection perspective rather than a perspective of death and tomb gazing?
2. In this passage, Jesus reclaims the garden from it’s lost state after the fall. What are the implications of this upon daily living?
3. Do you spend more time gazing into tombs or living with Christ in a garden of life? Where in your life could you possibly change your focus and perspective?
4. Jesus did not deny or minimize the tomb, but rather took victory over it. What is the balance between fully grieving our “tombs” or lowest moments in life and living in victory beyond them?
5. What happened when Jesus stopped referring to her as woman and called her by her name, “Mary”? Why was this so transformative?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.