

SERMON-BASED STUDY: MARY MAGDALENE

John 20:1-18, ESV – Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 How do the reactions of Peter and the other disciple differ from Mary's when they see the empty tomb? Why do you think this is so?
- 2 Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal himself first to Mary Magdalene?
- 3 How does the personal, familiar call of her name (Mary) transform her? How does Jesus call you personally?
- 4 In what ways can grief or fear, like Mary's, blind us to the presence of the resurrected Jesus in our lives?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Colossians 3:23-24, ESV** – ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Romans 12:11-12, ESV – ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

5 What do these passages suggest about the level of passion we should have in regard to serving the Lord?

6 How does a right perspective help to serve God with passion?

B **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV** – ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Habakkuk 3:17-19, ESV – ¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

7 Paul instructs us to give thanks “in” all circumstances, not “for” all circumstances. What is the difference between these two? How does this distinction enable genuine devotion rather than forced positivity?

8 How is your devotion to faith affected when things do not go the way you expect in your life? Explain.

TAKING IT HOME

Mary Magdalene was passionate about the work of Jesus and devoted to her faith. Even in the midst of grief, she was serving the Lord. What about you? Are you currently serving out of duty or out of passionate love for God? How does this passage encourage you to share with others about your own experiences with the Lord? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to show you what next steps you need to take in your faith journey.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 62:8; 63:1

Matthew 28:1-10

Mark 16:1-11

Luke 24:1-12

Romans 5:3-5

1 Corinthians 15:58