

## **The Road from Disappointment and Despair to Delight and Devotion (John 20:11-18)**

**Pastor Deric Thomas**

*(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.*

### **Practical Application**

1. For the Christian, there is always a miracle after your burial.
2. Only the dead stay in tombs. Through Jesus Christ we can live.
3. Jesus is still rolling stones.
4. Through Christ and His resurrection power we can move from disappointment and despair to delight and devotion.
5. Sometimes our weeping (emotions) prevent us from seeing the truth.
6. Angels are real, and at times God uses them as His messengers to accomplish His plans and purposes.
7. Sometimes our ignorance clouds our perspective and our judgement.
8. Sometimes our assumptions negatively influence our interpretation of the facts.
9. Sometimes we can miss Jesus, even when He is right there with us (God with us).
10. Faulty presuppositions can significantly skew our understanding.
11. God speaks to us today. Are you listening?
12. Why did you weep the last time you did? What were you seeking? What did you really want (desire)?
13. Jesus knows your disappointments and despair, and He lovingly and personally speaks to and comforts His children by name.
14. Jesus is always loving His children, and always teaching us. Receive His love today. Learn from Him. Rest in Him.
15. Do you understand the importance of the ascension of the Son of God?
16. Do you know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and do you know God as Father?
17. Joyfully announce your testimony to all who will listen.
18. Let your disappointments and despair lead you to greater delight in and devotion to Jesus Christ today.

### **Announcements**

1. **Children's AWANA Program and Adult Small Group Bible Study** are on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30. Remember we are now serving dinner to kids on Wednesday nights starting at 6.
2. Check out all the **Small Groups** that meet on Sunday's and throughout the week. We have many to choose from, with more starting in the weeks to come.
3. **Ministry Opportunity upcoming!** HMC will be cooking and serving a pre-game meal to the Calera High School Football Team this **Friday September 8, 2023**. This is a great opportunity to show the young men and coaching staff of Calera High School Football, the love of God's church for our community. Pastor Deric will also be there to share and pray over the team. If you have questions, please contact Paul Hayes or any of the HMC Deacons.
4. **VOLUNTEER'S NEEDED:** Hospitality Team needs people to serve one Sunday a month on a rotation for next Quarter. Servants are needed to be doorway greeters to hand out sermon notes and for coffee bar set-up and clean up each week. Please consider volunteering to serve on this team. Contact Lanie at [eleannamarieb@gmail.com](mailto:eleannamarieb@gmail.com) or text (205) 915-4885 for more information and to sign up.