

He is Alive **John 20:11-17**

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, 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, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" NKJV

Have you ever had those times in your life when the darkness closed in around you and there seem no way to go? Has life thrown you some hard curves that left you reeling and confused and at your wits end? Have you lost all that you ever dreamed for? Left with nothing but broken pieces that like Humpty Dumpty, all the kings horses and all the kings men could never put it back together again?

The last few days for the women who traveled with Jesus have been strained to say the least. They had heard about Jesus arrest and illegal trials in the night and then the crucifixion and burial done the next day hurriedly done just before Passover. Now because there were three holy days in a row they come now on the first day of the week to the tomb to finish preparation of the body for burial.

But now once again the unimaginable has happened. The tomb is empty and no one seems to know where the body of Jesus is now. The soldiers who were guarding the tomb are gone into the city.

Mary of Magdala was the first one there. She had run to tell the disciples. John and Peter had run to the tomb to see for themselves, but they have left and Mary is alone in the place where they had laid Him.

- I. Who was this Mary?
 - A. She was the one out of whom Jesus had cast 7 demons.
 - B. She ministered to the disciples and Jesus of her wealth
 - C. She was at the cross

- D. She was there when they took Him from the cross and she saw the place where they buried Him
 - E. She was the first to come to the tomb that morning while it was still dark.
 - F. She is the first to report that the tomb is empty.
 - G. After John and Peter leave, she is still there.
 - H. Jesus first appears to Mary, Mark 16:9
- II. What kept her so close to Jesus.
- A. Her love
 - 1. Jesus had said that whoever has been forgiven much, loves much and Mary had no trouble remembering the change Jesus had made in her life.
 - B. Therefore He was her only hope.
 - 1. She remembered her life before Jesus came and she need Him to keep the demons away.
 - 2. Maybe as Jesus was arrested and crucified, she felt the demons trying to return, to take from her the freedom that Jesus had brought to her.
 - 3. It may have been very true that without Jesus she would not be able to continue.
 - C. How could she carry on.
 - 1. She had become dependent on Jesus
 - 2. His physical presence gave her confidence and peace.
 - 3. His word of truth and wisdom gave her courage and strength.
 - 4. That is why she clung to His feet.
 - 5. But she could no longer experience Him in that way, He was gone.
- III. But now Jesus had a better relationship for her.
- A. He is alive but not like before, it is better now.
 - B. He is going to return to the Father but He could, by the Holy Spirit be with her now at all times.
 - C. No longer will He be hindered by the body
 - 1. Now He has a spiritual body that is not limited by time and space as this one is.
 - D. Now there is nothing that she cannot overcome.

E. There are no demons who can cast out her Jesus.

Whatever you are facing today, Jesus still lives and He has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

He has given to us His Spirit as the down payment until the redemption of the body, when we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

MARY

He stops her in respect to a love which leaned too much upon His fleshly presence; she and His disciples now need to rise to a higher and at the same time a nearer, but spiritual, communion with Him. "Be not now touching Me" (compare 1 John 1:1), for the time of this permanent "seeing" (John 16:16,19,22) and knowing Me after the Spirit, which is to supersede your past "knowledge of Me after the flesh" (2 Cor 5:16),

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