

Text: John 20:11-18

Meaning: Mary saw Jesus and was commissioned to tell the disciples

Big Idea: When you see the resurrected Jesus you want to tell others

Objective: I want the hearers to see Jesus and tell others

Theme: Faith of Mary

WONDERFUL WOMAN OF GOD

FORK IN THE ROAD

The story is told of a Muslim who became a Christian in Africa. "Some of his friends asked him, 'Why have you become a Christian?' He answered, 'Well, its like this. Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go, and there at the fork in the road were two men, one dead and one alive--which one would you ask which way to go?'"

This morning we are going to examine the faith of an incredible woman of God: Mary Magdalene. Magdalene is simply a reference to where she was from, and the Bible tells us that she once was possessed by 7 demons and Christ came and cast those demons out and completely transformed her life.

It is significant that the first witnesses of the resurrection of Christ were *believing women*. Among the Jews in that day, the testimony of women was not held in high regard. "It is better that the words of the Law be burned," said the rabbis, "than be delivered to a woman." But these Christian women had a greater message than that of the Law, for they knew that their Saviour was alive.¹

Mary was a **GIVER** and a **SERVANT**. In Luke 8 it says she was a part of a large group of female disciples who supported Christ and the 12 out of their financial means. They also served alongside Jesus.

MARY'S CONFUSION

When the angels asked Mary why she was weeping she said she couldn't find Jesus. When we look around our world it sure does seem hard to find Jesus.

A non-Christian walks into a school and kills Christians, including 3 little 9 year old kids, and Christians get blamed for it. However, this is nothing new. The Devil has been playing that same sad little wicked game for centuries. The fact that a large portion of our populace is blaming Christians for something that sinister is just more proof that the Bible is true and Jesus is Lord! Jesus said it would happen.

The whole point of Easter and the resurrection of Christ is you can't kill Jesus! He died once, and that's only because he willingly offered up His life, it was not taken from Him, BUT HE WILL NEVER DIE AGAIN. IN FACT, HE WILL PHYSICALLY COME AGAIN TO THIS EARTH ONE DAY TO ESTABLISH HIS OWN KINGDOM, AND SWIFT JUSTICE WILL COME TO ALL EVILDOERS!

BY THE WAY – NOBODY REMOVES JESUS! HE CANNOT BE IGNORED AND HE WILL NOT BE DENIED HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS KING OVER THIS EARTH.

If you can't see Jesus today – JUST TURN AROUND! He's been there all along! He's seated on His throne today and the right hand of God just as He always has been since His resurrection and ascension into Heaven!

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 388.

BUT, even after seeing Christ she still didn't recognize who He was. She supposed him to be the gardener. Friend, Jesus might be right in front of you and you not even know it. Those things in life which seem out of place, those things which are your greatest obstacles and seem to always cause you the most angst and stress – JUST MIGHT BE GOD AT WORK RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!

JESUS'S COMPASSION

Jesus didn't chide or belittle Mary for her confusion. He softly and tenderly called her by name, and when He called her by name she knew. When she heard his kind voice of grace she immediately knew it was the Lord. Ladies and Gentlemen we serve a God who is kind and gracious, and today He doesn't fault you for having questions and struggles in this life. He is calling you by name this morning to enter into a loving personal relationship with Him!

NOTICE THE FAITH OF THIS INCREDIBLE WOMAN OF GOD:

1. MARY WENT TO THE RIGHT PLACE

Although Mary didn't fully understand it all, she had to go back to where Jesus was. Joseph of Arimathea had prepared Christ's body for burial in haste as the Sabbath was approaching late Friday afternoon, so the women didn't have time to fully anoint his body with the traditional spices, oils, and perfumes Jewish custom called for. Proper burial was a big deal to the Jewish people, where they were placed, who they were buried with, and how the burial was carried out to include the appropriate preparation of the body. So, Mary goes back to finish the job. She goes back to anoint his body in worship and to remember His precious words shared with her and His powerful miracles he performed. Mary went back to what she thought was the grave of Christ, but she soon found out that He was not dead, He was alive!

Ladies and Gentlemen, today we are in the RIGHT PLACE. The place to be on Sundays is with the people of God at the house of God

worshipping the risen Son of God and looking for the second coming of God!

The reason that some of you here this morning may not be experiencing the peace and power of God in your life is simply because you're not at the right place every week. If you haven't taken the time to notice, the world is quickly going to hell in a hand basket.

Jesus said that in the last days before He comes again it will be like birth pangs. Suffering and hardship will grow and grow and get increasingly closer and closer together – such that just before Christ is about to be birthed on the scene there will be daily persecution happening to the people of God.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE AT A BALL FIELD ON SUNDAY MORNING! NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE ON THE LAKE OR IN THE TREE STAND ON SUNDAY! NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE ON THE GOLF COURSE DURING CHURCH!

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD WORSHIPPING THE SON OF GOD LOOKING FOR THE SECOND COMING OF OUR GOD!

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. MARY HAD THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Jesus had just been beaten, mocked, spit on, lied about, falsely accused, and finally had spikes driven deeply into his hands and his feet into that old rugged cross. Thought almost all the apostles ran for their lives, not Mary Magdalene. Just a chapter before this it says that Mary was there along with Mary the wife of Clopas and Jesus's

own mother Mary – and she was there as Christ cried, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?” And she watched as He breathed His last and gave up His Spirit.

Now, here she is again at the tomb out of a deep desire to express her forever gratitude to Him for all He had brought her out of.

What fearless faith! What courage it took for this lady, along with a few other godly women, to come to this tomb which was being guarded by two Roman soldiers. They could just as easily been arrested or even beaten themselves for coming there and making these requests to minister to the body of Jesus – Yet they came anyway!

Church – NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO COWER BACK IN FEAR! NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO GIVE IN TO THIS BROKEN CULTURE! NOW MORE THAN EVER IS THE TIME TO BOLDLY DECLARE THAT JESUS IS LORD AND THERE IS NO OTHER!

WHO CARES WHAT THE WORLD THINKS? WHO CARES IF THE WORLD IS IN AGREEMENT OR NOT – OUR JOB IS NOT TO PLEASE THE WORLD BUT THE ONE WHO DIED FOR OUR SINS AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

THE MOST LOVING THING WE CAN DO FOR THIS BROKEN WORLD IS DECLARE – JESUS IS ALIVE AND HE HAS AND INFINITELY BETTER MORE GLORIOUS AND JOYOUS PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE THAN THIS DARK AND SINISTER WORLD DOES?

2 Timothy 1:7-8

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord

3. MARY MADE THE RIGHT PROFESSION

Mary, for whatever reason didn’t recognize Jesus initially, so she turns to walk away, then Christ, with the same tenderness he always had, calls her by name, “Mary.”

Jesus said, “My sheep know Me and they know my voice.”

Where Jesus says, “don’t cling to me” it reminds me of when I come in the door after a long day and our 8 year old and 5 year old meet me at the door by running as fast as they can and bear hugging me. Jesus tells Mary to go and tell the other disciples that she has seen Him in the flesh, bodily physically alive after the grave.

So Mary goes, and even though the disciples don’t believe her, she declares anyway.

Church, folks may not always believe the message, but we have a responsibility and a great privilege to declare it.

Children of God, in days like these we need to remind each other every time we gather that Christ is alive!

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

So many people are great with a CRUCIFIED JESUS, but only a handful are good with a RESURRECTED JESUS. See, the resurrected Jesus conquers sin and death. He comes into our lives and brings transformation, life change. See, in order for the resurrected Christ to change my life another crucifixion has to take place – I HAVE TO DIE.

JESUS DIED AND ROSE SO WE COULD LIVE. WE MUST DIE IN ORDER FOR CHRIST TO RISE IN US!

TODAY – ROLL THE STONE AWAY FROM THE TOMB OF YOUR HEART.
LET THE RESURRECTED CHRIST TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE TODAY.

As long as Christ is in the Tomb:

- Nothing has to change in my life
- I don't have to sacrifice anything
- Truth can stay hidden
- No one gets offended
- My sins and secret shortcomings don't have to be revealed.

But friend, as long as Christ is still in the tomb – WE ARE HOPELESSLY
LOST, SEPARATED FROM GOD, HEADED FOR DESTRUCTION