

Life Changing Hope
2016-03-27

John 20:9-18

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, "Ra bone e!" (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.

It's easy to focus on the negative: cable news, human failure, world chaos, coronavirus.

- In despair/trials, hope must be rooted in reality, not wishful/positive thinking.
 - The fact of Jesus' bodily resurrection can produce life-changing hope.

Resurrection from dead was not any more believed in Jesus' days than today. *John 20:9-13, Acts 4:28*

- Mary Magdalene had no expectation of a resurrection, nobody did.
 - "Wept"= loud, uncontrollable wailing...she thought the grave had been robbed.
 - We often suffer needless sorrow because we forget God is sovereign and evil men can't thwart His eternal purposes. Ghana trip

Angels are puzzled by Mary's tears. "Why weep, empty tomb is cause for rejoicing."

- Mary clearly loves Jesus but doesn't yet have faith to believe His promises.
 - Jesus often told his apostles that the Son of Man was to suffer, be crucified, buried, and on the 3rd day rise from dead.

Because her faith was weak, her eyes were blind to Jesus when He spoke to her. *John 20:14-15*

- Jesus/angels questions are not to gain info but to get Mary to process her sorrow in light of resurrection.
 - 1st question (why weeping) answered by answer to 2nd question (Who do you seek?)
 - Mary is seeking a dead Lord, not omnipotent, living, sovereign Lord.
 - Empty tomb is cause to weep for joy: Jesus is keeping His promises!
 - We need to process sorrows/disappointments in light of resurrection and Jesus' love/care for us.
 - Omnipotent risen Savior/friend fulfills all His promises to us.

Her eyes not recognize Jesus but her ears knew that voice! John 20:16-18, 10:27

- Jesus calls her name: suddenly her eyes opened and grief replaced with gladness.
 - Fact of Jesus' bodily resurrection produced life-changing hope in Mary.
 - resurrection guaranteed that all Jesus' promises are true and sure.
- Lost: Jesus is calling to you personally, intimately thru the Gospel.
 - Empty tomb was indisputable then and now
 - resurrection is undeniable proof Jesus is the only Messiah, Savior and Judge.
 - Sorrows turn to hope when seek crucified, risen Savior.

Jesus asks Christian: "Why weeping/worried? My work is done. Tomb is empty."

- Risen Jesus desires His people to have faith, hope and trust His promises.
 - Because Jesus won victory over death, our attitude can change from despair to hope even in midst of trials/world chaos. WWII story
- Jesus is risen, His promises are true/sure and the fruit of believing gospel is a heart filled with hope that affects how we live. Ephesians 1:16-20, Hebrew 13:20-21
 - Confidence that Holy Spirit who raised Jesus Christ from the dead indwells Christians and is empowering God-glorifying decisions/actions that can impact world.
 - Fact of Jesus' bodily resurrection can produce life-changing hope.

Whole world is looking for someone to provide hope in midst of chaos, negativity, despair

- Only living Savior who triumphed over grave offers real hope. Romans 8:11, 35-9
 - CHRISTIAN....Proclaim the hope found in Gospel and live with faith and joy that will testify to the truth of the resurrection.
 - Christian...lift up your head. Weep no more. Tomb is empty. Jesus Christ is risen, He lives, He is sovereign, He rules/reigns forever.