

“Jesus: The Resurrected Redeemer”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Subject Question: What 3 very human waves of emotions does John lead us through at the empty tomb?

Compliment answer: They had lost what they had found, they had been found by what they lost, and they had found what they could never lose.

Big Idea: The 3 very human waves of emotions that John leads us through at the empty tomb are: They had lost what they had found, they had been found by what they lost, and they had found what they could never lose.

Homiletical Idea: “A death defying act of love...”

Purpose: I want the congregation to experience the emotional ups and downs but hoses who first came to the empty tomb of Jesus. More, I want them to find for themselves the treasure that can be found and can never be lost.

Introduction: Nothing brings our emotions to their rawest level as much as facing the reality of death. In our text today, emotions are raw, nerves are ragged, hope is dashed, and in a strange and wonderful way, life is given. Today we consider the roller coaster of emotions that were faced not only by Mary, Peter and John, but if we look and consider closely, ourselves.

(Life is worth living)

- A. They had lost what they had found (Vs. 1-10) *Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.*
- B. Such a tragic turn of events... Just a week ago Jesus had been riding a wave of popularity, People were spreading branches along the path welcoming this prophet that they had come to somehow believe in. Smiles all around. This was just the beginning! For Mary Magdalene, John and Peter, it had been the ride of their lives... They had found in Jesus a life, a perspective, a hope... But now, how quickly that had all been dashed. The politicians and religious leaders had finally gotten their way... and the crowds in their disappointment had turned their backs and their hearts...! But for Mary and John and Peter... it was more of the cold, clammy reality that Jesus, was gone... Gone!
- C. In a word, they had lost what they thought they had found. So it is with lots of people when things don’t turn out well. When they put their trust

in God... and a situation does not turn out well: the beloved one did not get healed. The husband did not stay. The child still hasn't called. The wind in their sails has been taken out. God has let them down. If only He would have intervened... and so, like the crowds, they turn their backs and their hearts on God. And more the cold calmly reality comes over them that God is not there. Or He is and he just doesn't care.

- D. Did you notice what John and Peter did, when confronted by even more misery at the tomb? We tend to believe that the disciples were somehow joyful over the empty tomb... Not hardly. Disappointment after disappointment had clouded their ability to express hope and so...

¹⁰ *Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.* They went home. They went back where something makes sense and they could just think and lick their wounds and reassess their situation. And they struggled with the reality of loss... What Jesus had taught them was now in question:

(Life is worth living)

- A. They had been found by what they lost (Vs.11-16) ¹¹ *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb* ¹² *and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.* ¹³ *They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."* ¹⁴ *At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.* ¹⁵ *He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."* ¹⁶ *Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").*
- B. What I love about this story is the fact that at Mary's lowest, most hopeless and helpless emotional state, Jesus shows up. Notice that Mary did not find Jesus, rather Jesus came and found Mary. She had been found by what she thought she had lost. The question is why didn't Jesus go straight to Peter and John? Why didn't he go and say, "hey guys it's all going to be OK?" I suppose He could have. Mary was just kind of ordinary people. But, Mary was special to Jesus as well.
- C. And maybe that is the real lesson here, Jesus comes to us, comes and finds us, in unexpected and unusual ways—usually at time when we need Him... not just when want him. Others can wait, because although we may consider ourselves as just kind of ordinary people,

Jesus considers each of us as special. He usually finds us more than we find Him. And the reality begins to set in: I haven't lost what I thought I had found, I've been found by what I thought I had lost.

- D. This I know; that as long as God is with me, as long as Jesus reveals himself to me in any one of a thousand small ways, then I can deal with life as it comes. It is when the Gardner shows up, or the neighbor, or the off the cuff remark someone makes, that I know that Jesus has found me and I hear once again his promise... I will never leave you nor forsake you. And then I come to realize that He has always meant it. When Jesus shows us we begin to feel that it's OK to consider once again...

(Life is worth living)

- A. They had found what they could never loose. (Vs. 17-18) ¹⁷ *Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"* ¹⁸ *Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.*
- B. Maybe the greatest wave of emotion comes in this last two verses. Have you even wondered why, at least in this gospel account, Jesus didn't tell Mary to tell his brothers that He was alive? That He had conquered death? To not let your hearts be troubled...? He will go and tell them all those things later... Listen again to the words he said to Mary: *'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'*
- C. Not only does Jesus come to his own at times when we need him the most, not are we found by the one that we may have thought we had lost, but through it all, it's always been about us. His life, His cross, His death, His resurrection, His ascension into heaven and preparing a place for us, has always not only about us but for us. It has always been a family matter.
- D. You may sister when you asked Christ to be your Savoir and Lord, he said yes, if you'll be my sister. You my brother when you said yes to Jesus, He said, yes to you... My Father is now your father, and My God is now your God. Consider Romans 8: ²⁸ *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose.* ²⁹ *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.* The most incredible emotion is found when we discover that It's

always been you and me that makes Jesus, our Resurrected Redeemer proclaim about His own life: That for Him

(Life is worth living)