

At the Empty Tomb: Part 3 of 3

by Christine Wentzel

Thank you, Lord, for including the account of your first resurrection appearance as recalled by your servant, John. As women, You know how we struggle about our purpose, how we get lost in the details, diverted from our Gospel mission and how we need Your emotional support and reassurance to carry on. Help us see with fresh eyes the encouragement, purpose and promise in Your loving exchange with Mary at the empty tomb. Amen...



Jesus said to her, “Mary.” John 20:16a. It could be that at this moment Mary is looking directly into His precious eyes so filled with intense love and a desire for her to understand. Jesus, the Word made flesh, breathes one word—her name! Not only does it hold the power to create the universe, but with a gentle breath drives the fog of grief out of her. Once again, in an instant, He heals her pain and she remembers.

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher) John 20:16b. She probably wanted to fall on him in relief—maybe even forgiveness for her blindness. We do the same today every time He reminds us He is right there with us no matter how bad things appear.

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” John 20:17. Jesus’ earthly mission is coming to an end. His relationship with Mary changed. He will no longer live among them. She had to depend on His Words. That meant staying in the company of His apostles and helping to spread His message. He gave Mary, his disciple, her own personal ministry.

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. John 20:18

Mary did as she was told—no doubt with an eagerness we do well to emulate. She didn’t need a degree from seminary school. She simply spoke what the Lord had said to her. She didn’t need to worry about anything beyond that. We have those same abilities, the same urgent mission.

Then they [the disciples] gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:6-8

He is risen! You’re powered up! Go tell!



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Prayer: 32. Dearest Resurrected Lord, when I think of joy I immediately think...

Super Girl: 67. The Lenten season is coming to a close, culminating...

Scripture References: Mark 12:26; Mark 16:19; John 7:33; Ephesians 1:17; Hebrews 2:11;
Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:48; John 15:27; Acts 1:22; Acts 2:1, 4, 32; Acts 4:33;
Acts 8:1

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