



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

Open

April 1, 2018

It's Sunday morning. Mary Magdalene is visiting the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. However, instead of carrying out burial rituals she finds the tomb empty. She is frantic. What is she thinking of these angelic visitors? She doesn't even recognize Jesus at His appearance! Only when He calls to her by name does she get it. And though she wants to cling to Jesus, she becomes the one to tell His disciples He is alive!

This week was not only Easter Sunday, it was also the final Sunday dedicated to the sermon series, *Scenes From Holy Week*. In one final analysis, we read John describe a glorious encounter between Mary Magdalene and her resurrected Lord!

Main Point

Mary was greatly distressed at Jesus' missing body. How desperately did she need the resurrection? How desperately do we?

Read

John 20:11-18

Discuss

- Why was Mary Magdalene going to the tomb? What does this say about her state of mind at first?
- Prior to this story, Mary had only seen the tomb open (John 20:1-2). Now, she is looking in for herself. What does she believe has happened to the body? Now what is her state of mind?
- When Jesus greets her, she fails to recognize Him. When He calls her by name, she knows Him. Did anything change?
- She tries to hold on to Jesus, but He resists her. Touching Him doesn't seem to be the problem (John 20:26-28). So why would He resist her?
- Mary became the very first witness of the resurrected Christ. There may be multiple reasons why. Discuss a few possible reasons.
- What would a dead Jesus mean to Mary? How about a living Jesus?