

## Letting Go of Death – because I have seen the Lord

John 20:1-18

### Introduction:

The faith progression of Mary from darkness into light; from not believing Jesus rose from the dead to believe Jesus came back to life. As a result, she witnesses to others about her personal experience of Jesus' resurrection.

### Theological Theme:

- a) Night vs. Day, Darkness vs. Light are themes that John's gospel highlights.
- b) v.1 Mary went to Jesus' tomb while it was still dark. John is hinting that Mary will come to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. In other words, Mary's faith is not believing Jesus' resurrection (still in the dark) will change to being Jesus' witness to others because she has seen the Lord (in the light).
- c) "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." – John 1:5
- d) "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." – John 1:12-13

### Guiding questions:

1. How often do we jump into conclusions about God's action in our lives? v.1, 2  
Stone moved; Mary jumps into conclusions someone must have entered the tomb and stole the body.
2. How many people today are attending church online about Easter, remembering Easter, but has no feeling of joy or hope in this Easter morning? v.3-10
  - a. Simon Peter and the one Jesus loved heard Mary's news and ran towards the tomb.
  - b. Simon Peter entered the tomb. The cloth wrapped on Jesus' face was lying in its place separated from the linen. The one Jesus loved entered next.
  - c. The two disciples went home. No joy, no celebration. The emptiness of the tomb does not seem to have any influence on them.
3. Today, Jesus is asking, "What are you looking for?"
  - a. Mary stood outside the tomb – John 20:15, "Who is it you are looking for?" The dead?
  - b. The disciples from John the Baptist approached Jesus – John 1:38, "What are you looking for?" The Messiah.
  - c. In John 1:39, Jesus invited the disciples of John the Baptist to "come and you will see."
  - d. Today Jesus also invites us to come and we will see. An abundant life!
4. Is Jesus calling our name? Is our response tell us that we are His disciples? v.16

- a. Jesus called Mary by name. Jesus called Lazarus by name. Jesus called his sheep and they listen to Jesus because he is a good shepherd.
- b. In John 1:39, the disciples of John the Baptist called Jesus, "Rabbi!" In today's scripture, Mary also replied to Jesus, "Rabboni!" If Mary called Jesus Teacher, Mary is his follower.
- c. When Jesus called us by name, our response should be that we hear and obey him for he is our good shepherd and we follow him and depend on him as our Lord. We follow him and learn from him and his teaching.

5. Are we being called to see the new things that God is doing in our lives and in our world? v.17

- a. Genesis 1:2 – the world was dark and God spoke life.

Mary came to Jesus in the dark, didn't know Jesus was resurrected. Later, Mary saw the light so to speak. She has seen Jesus. Mary entered into her new life with Jesus came back to life.

- b. God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden because they sinned against God. So, Adam and Eve left with grief. Jesus sent Mary out of the garden to witness to the disciples because God did a new thing. Mary left with joy.

6. What is he asking us to let go of? v.17