

April 9, 2023

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

EASTER: The Empty Tomb

Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

John 20:1-18

20 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.

RUNNING IN THE DARK

THE ESSENCE OF THE BIBLE IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP—RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE RADICAL, RESTORATIVE, REDEFINING AND REAL

A report from Harvard suggests that 36% of all Americans—including 61% of young adults and 51% of mothers with young children—feel “serious loneliness.”

“We need to return to an idea that was central to our founding and is at the heart of many great religious traditions: We have commitments to ourselves, but we also have vital commitments to each other, including to those who are vulnerable.”

— Loneliness in America

Ultimate individualism- Starbucks Quote: “Be You The World Will Adjust”

3 MAIN CHARACTERS AT A PIVOTAL PLACE PERSONALLY AND IN RELATIONSHIP

MARY MAGDALENE, JOHN AND PETER.

Darkness: Vs. 1 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.

- How you live in the darkness matters.
- The resurrection happened in the midst of the darkness.
 - PSALM 139:12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

“What makes night within us may leave stars.”
— Victor Hugo

RUNNING: Vs. 2-4 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.

While each of the 3 main characters in this passage ran to the tomb, all had different experiences in coming to know Jesus.

Peter: Peter got there last, but went in first and left still unsure.

- **SHAME:** Peter had not been excommunicated even though he had denied Jesus.

John: John got there second, hesitated, finally went in and was first to believe.

Mary: Mary got there first, while it was still dark, went to tell others, returned and lingered the longest, eventually touching Jesus.

- Had Mary not had the courage to explore the darkness, she never would have witnessed the power of the resurrection.
- **Vs. 16** Jesus said to her, “Mary.”