



Sermon Discussion Questions
04-12-26

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Sermon Series: 40 Days of Easter
Week 1: Don't Miss It

1. ICE BREAKER: The message opened with a story about the Artemis launch. Talk about the idea of space and space exploration with your group. Do you have any significant memories about anything related - perhaps a launch you saw, or an interest you have?
2. Read our Scripture for this week, John 20:11-18:

¹¹Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³They 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." ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵He 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."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷Jesus 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.'"

¹⁸Mary 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.

What stands out to you in this encounter between Mary and Jesus? What do you notice about Mary's emotional state and how Jesus meets her in that moment?

3. The Resurrection isn't just a part of the Christian story, it was a real, historical event. In the sermon we talked about 5 facts that almost all scholars agree on:
 - *Jesus was crucified*
 - *Jesus died.*
 - *Jesus was buried in a tomb.*
 - *Jesus' tomb was found empty 3 days after his burial.*
 - *Followers and enemies of Jesus believed they encountered him after his death.*

Did the idea that these facts are agreed upon by most, even Non-Christians, surprise you? If so, which one? Which of the commonly accepted facts about the resurrection do you find most compelling or interesting?

4. If the resurrection is real, it truly changes everything. Pastor Tim Keller writes, "The resurrection is not a stupendous magic trick, but an invasion."

Discuss this quote. What does this idea mean to you? How do you see an invasion happening in our world now?

5. In the Scripture, Jesus meets Mary in her grief, and simply calls her by name.

What does this reveal about the character of Jesus? Share about a time you experienced Jesus meeting you in a difficult or emotional season.

6. Reread John 20:17. After revealing Himself, Jesus gives Mary a new purpose: "Go and tell." Across all 4 Gospel accounts, the women are the first to preach the good news!

Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal Himself first to women, whose testimony would not have typically been accepted or considered reliable in those days? How might "go and tell" look in different areas of your everyday life (work, school, home)?

7. Just as Jesus gave Mary a new purpose, the resurrection also ushers new purpose into our lives. Read Ephesians 2:10, "*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*"

Do you believe you were created on purpose, for a purpose? Why or why not? Where do you currently see purpose in your daily life?

8. Sometimes it is easy to believe that we have a purpose, but harder to step into that purpose. Three common barriers to purpose are: "But I am..." (what we believe about ourselves), "But I feel..." (when our emotions take charge), and "But I was..." (letting our past define us).

Which of these do you relate to the most? How might God be inviting you to trust Him beyond that barrier? What can you do in your daily faith practices to help you identify your purpose, and move beyond the barriers that stand in your way?

9. PRACTICE: Read John 20:17 again, "*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.'*"

Jesus is inviting Mary to leave something behind ("Do not hold on"), the old way she used to relate to Jesus, and to something new ("Go instead").

Have someone in your group put on some prayerful music and consider what God may be inviting you to, using the same framework.

"Do not hold on to _____ . Go instead and _____ ."

Share with your group what you feel the Holy Spirit impressed upon you related to this prompt.