

April 1, 2024

From Despair to Joy
[John 20:11-18](#)

*Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."
(John 20:18a)*

Mary Magdalene, in the midst of extreme grief, went to the tomb where Jesus's body had been placed. On Friday Mary Magdalene had witnessed the cruel and torturous death of Jesus.

She had seen his pain and great suffering; she was despondent and heartbroken. No work was to be done on the Sabbath and that included carrying spices to a tomb, so Mary Magdalene went at the first opportunity which was early on Sunday morning.

But what a surprise, the stone at the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus was not there.

What a shock to her already fragile state of mind! Who would have done this and why? She rushed to the first person she saw to inquire if he had witnessed what had happened to the body of Jesus.

That gardener asked the same stupid question the angels had asked, "Why are you weeping?" Mary was most likely thinking, "How could I not be weeping after what I have seen the last three days?"

The Messiah was here; he had come to save us, and all of his plans were destroyed; he was destroyed." Then Jesus called her name, "Mary!" The tears became tears of joy! She wanted to hug him and not let go, but Jesus would not permit her to touch him. So she ran proclaiming the Good News! Jesus is alive!

Has Jesus called your name? How did you respond? Do your actions proclaim "Jesus is alive"?

We all go through times of grief and disappointment, but Jesus does not leave us or forsake us. I have been through times of trial through loss of family to loss of employment and times of being unable to find work.

But, I have always been able to find comfort in the Lord, when the money ran, out an unexpected check from a Christian friend would arrive in the mail. Looking back I have realized these rough times has been times to strengthen my faith.

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, when you call our name, may we respond with such joy overflowing from our soul that we proclaim, "Jesus is alive! I have seen him!" In all things let us continue to praise you! Amen*

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