

Conversations with Jesus: "Called to Joy" John 20:1-18

1. What principles or observations from Pastor Tim's message did you find to be helpful or insightful?
2. Upon discovering on Easter morning that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, Mary Magdalene runs and finds Peter and John. What does she tell them?
3. Jesus' first resurrection appearance is to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons in Luke 8:2. The disciples return to their homes while Mary remains outside of the tomb crying. John must not have told her that the tomb was empty! He may have been too stunned to say anything. Mary then looks into the tomb and sees two individuals who were angels. What do they say to Mary in verse 15? What is Mary's response?
4. After saying this, she turns around and sees Jesus. His appearance is so unexpected that she does not realize that it is Him. Who does she initially think that he is?
5. Why do you think Jesus introduced Himself to Mary first?

Perhaps Jesus appears to Mary first because Mary had so earnestly sought Him.

Read John 19:25. Where was Mary during His final moments on the Cross?

Read John 20:1. Where was she the first thing Sunday morning?

Mary spoke with Jesus but she didn't realize who He was. Some suggest that His appearance was changed; others say she had a temporary "blindness" as did the two men on the road to Emmaus who "were prevented from recognizing Him" (Luke 24:16) until He broke bread with them. Others say that possibly the tears in her eyes kept her from recognizing Jesus.

Jesus then says to her: "Mary." Read John 10:3. What does this tell us about Jesus, the Good Shepherd? How does that make you feel?

6. When Mary finally recognizes Jesus, what is her response in verse 16?
Jesus then tells Mary to stop doing something but instead do 2 things. What are they?

You can understand why Mary would be holding onto Jesus. She lost him once before (at His crucifixion) and it was natural to fear the loss of His presence again. How are you clinging to Jesus during these days of uncertainty and frustration?

Jesus' words to Mary speak of a new RELATIONSHIP, new RELATIVES, and a new RESPONSIBILITY. The new *relationship* speaks to Christ's impending Ascension and the gift of the His indwelling Spirit to believers. Jesus is saying to Mary: "Let me go...if I ascend...you will never lose Me again." The new *relatives* are Christ's disciples whom He now refers to as brothers. And the new *responsibility* for Mary is to proclaim the good news of the Gospel as a witness to the world.

Read Matthew 28:18-20. As brothers and sisters in Christ, indwelt with the Holy Spirit and His power, how are you obeying the calling on your life to go and make disciples of all people?