

Mary Sees Risen Christ

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 4th April 2010

Read John 20:1-18- 4 actors Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, John (other disciple), Jesus

Intro-

- Jim'I fix it-he show debuted on 31 May 1975, and ran until July 1994 -start with Jim reading out letter of request (some kids though he was called 'Jim'Il'), then discusses it with them -says 'that's a big request' and then fixes it and gives them a badge 'Jim fixed it for me'. A group of Cub Scouts wrote to the programme asking to have a meal in an unusual place. The show opted to send them, complete with packed lunch, to ride the Revolution rollercoaster at Pleasure Beach Blackpool. The food went everywhere!
- The resurrection is the biggest God-will-fix-it present to us because:

It proves we too will be raised-v11,v18

- Turned her from depths of sorrow to greatest joy. Death is the ultimate sorrow and she had witnessed the crucifixion when many of the men had fled, and also the burial. Now she would be the first to witness the permanent (not just temporary) resurrection from the dead. The pyramids of Egypt are famous because they contained the mummified bodies of ancient Egyptian kings. Westminster Abbey in London is renowned, because in it rests the bodies of English nobles and notables. Mohammed's tomb is noted for the stone coffin and the bones it contains. The Garden Tomb of Jesus is famous because it is empty!
- Mary did not recognise it was the Lord. Me being unrecognised when hair cut. Our resurrection bodies- perfected yet still us. Road to Emmaus- didn't recognise Him
- Jesus delayed revealing who He was to bless her more- just as we do with surprises. 'Whom do you seek?'- He does not ask for His benefit but for hers- so she can share her heart. Like 'Adam where are you?'- so he could confess his sin. Like 'Whom do you seek?' just a few days ago when He was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane- giving them the chance to change their minds ('I am'- used the title of God from burning bush & soldiers fell back as though dead). Then one word 'Mary'!
- I am ascending to my father and your father- v17- calls us brothers from here onwards- we will share our brother's reward- resurrection and asension. Read Rom 8:11
- Application- Do you worry about death? Let this account reassure you as it did Mary. Just as Jesus knew Mary so well, so also He knows us and will one day call our name to be with Him. Martin Luther: "We shall sleep until he comes and knocks at the tomb and says: 'Dr. Martin, get up!' Then in one moment I will get up and I will rejoice with him in eternity."If you have doubts look into the facts again and believe. Book by Gail Giorgio claims Elvis is still alive and grows beards to be unrecognized. Has been sighted in a Burger King in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Book includes a tape by Elvis. John saw the cloths and believed (better than Houdini- the great escapologist)- Jesus went through the cloth. However, Apostles told to go to Gallilee where Jesus would meet them but they were rooted to Jerusalem due to unbelief and grief, so Jesus had to appear to them in Jerusalem first. They refused to believe the testimony of Mary. On the Isle of Capri in the Bay of Naples, members of the local Christian parish have a traditional ceremony every Easter which is a powerful symbol of all that Christ's Resurrection means. Each family gathering for the early Sunday morning Easter celebration carries a bird cage. The crowded church and the plaza outside are jammed with the people of Capri carrying cages. After the benediction all of the cages are opened and the birds are released to the gleeful shouts that Christ has risen!

It proves our sins were forgiven

- Mary Magdalene- probably from Magdala (by Sea of Galilee) but could be a nickname (elegant, great, magnificent, tower). Mary was probably not the sinful woman mentioned in Luke 7. However, Mary had 7 demons cast out of her by Jesus- that was a foretaste of God's healing, but now she could see that the

sacrifice Jesus paid on the cross for her sins had been accepted by God the Father. If she had not met the risen Jesus she would have been left wondering 'was it enough?'

- She was asked to tell the good news of the resurrection to the apostles who had fled leaving Christ to die, and he calls them 'brothers'. In Mark 16:7 she was amongst the women who had seen an angel in the tomb asking them to tell the disciples and especially Peter that Jesus was risen. Peter denied Christ 3 times, so this was a powerful witness to her that sins were indeed forgiven by God.
- Application- Are you struggling to believe God has forgiven you for something you have done? If God the Father will not bring it up anymore who are we to? Get into a habit of not bringing it up again once you have confessed it to God- receive His forgiveness now. 1cross+3nails=4given. A group of Moravian missionaries once decided to take the message of God to the Eskimos. One of their struggles in teaching the Eskimos was that they could not find a word in the Eskimo language for forgiveness. Finally, they had to compound a phrase to use in the place of forgiveness. This compound phrase turned out to be issumagijoungnainermik. It's a formidable looking assembly of letters, but the expression has a beautiful connotation for those who understand that it means "not being able to think about it anymore."

It means we have resurrection power in us

- Mary did't want to lose Jesus again. 'Do not hold onto me'- Jesus was leaving but would send the Holy Spirit to live in her. 'I will not leave you as orphans'.
- Rom 8- Power over sin & death. Sanctification. Gal 5- the fruit of the Spirit.
- Jesus took the penalty of sin on the cross and demonstrated power over sin on our behalf by rising from the dead- sin no longer has power over Him because sin and death are partners in crime and Jesus cannot die again, He has conquered it
- In the same way we are to regard sin as conquered in us- defeated once and for all, and live like we believe it is true.- Read Rom 6:1-14
- Application- Are you struggling with a particular sin? Sometimes we feel powerless, but we are not powerless- Christ is in us. Start to believe that the power of that sin is broken. Start declaring and behaving like it is. See yourself as a saint because that is what you are-1Cor 1:2 . 'I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it.' Charles Swindol. "
I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be. But I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.'" -- John Newton, author of "Amazing Grace"

Summary

- Mary's life was transformed by the resurrection. It was God's ultimate gift to her, and also to us. It proves we will be raised, we are forgiven and that we have resurrection power to live by.

Song: *Led Like a Lamb*