

all heaven broke loose in her heart, when He said one word, 'Mary!' She knew it was Jesus, because only He could say her name in that way. She knew His voice.

I was waiting for an old high school friend to join me for a Georgia football game. It was getting dark as crowds were pouring by. I saw a group about fifty yards away and recognized my friend. I could not see their faces, but I recognized the way he walked. His walk was not different; it was just "his".

Today we have a marvelous computer program where "facial recognition" can pick a certain person out of a huge crowd. Our faces are "ours". Our fingerprints are "ours". Our DNA is "ours". Our personality is "ours". You and I are special. We are different. There never has been and never will be another "you" and "me".

God's **interest in and love for** you is also individual and personal. Jesus said, God is so interested in what goes on in this world; that He knows each and every time a sparrow finds food (Matthew 6). And He says, He is so interested in you, that He knows, right now, how many hairs are on your head. (Matthew 10:30)

He **created you** individually and personally. We don't just come out of our ancestors all the way back to Adam and Eve. Psalm 139 says:

"Lord / You created every part of me;  
You put me together in my mother's  
womb / when I was growing there in  
secret, You knew I was there / You saw  
me before I was born. The days allotted  
to me had been recorded in Your book,  
before any of them ever began."

Jesus **died for you** individually and personally. Jesus came to Paul on the road and after he was converted, he said, "I live by faith in the Son of God who loved **me** and gave himself for **me**" (Galatians 2:20). When we are converted, our names are written down in heaven's book (Revelation 21:27). God calls

himself the "God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob" and also of Bob Marcarelle" (Exodus 3:6).

At death, Jesus **will come and get you** personally and individually. John wrote the Book of Revelation to First Century Christians who were suffering under the cruelty of the Roman Empire; and he knew many of them had loved ones who had been killed. Jesus knew it too and appeared to John saying, "Don't be afraid. Look, I was dead but now I am alive forevermore. I hold **the keys** to death and the afterlife."

We can stay in some wonderful places on vacation and we are given a "key" to our room. But the best "key" is at the end of the vacation. It is the front door when we get back home. We don't live in heavenly "**mansions**" (John 14). The term means "a place to stay" and that place, prepared just for us by Jesus, is our "home".

In Elementary School, I never had a room of my own. But after we moved to Georgia, I had one and I can still see it - my "Indian" blanket on the bed; my shelf with my pocket knives; my "22 Rifle" in the corner; etc. Jesus told His disciples He would "come and get them and take them to live where He lives" (John 14). This is what death is. The first one He "came for" was James, who was executed by Herod (Acts 12).

When I come to the river at ending of day /  
And the last winds of sorrow have blown /  
There'll be Somebody waiting to show  
me the way /

I won't have to cross Jordan alone.  
In the darkness I see /  
He'll be waiting for me /  
I won't have to cross Jordan alone.

"Jesus' body still had the scars in His hands and on His side (John 20:27). Does this mean we will have earthly scars in heaven? No, His scars are eternal reminders that we are in heaven because of Him / that "Jesus paid it all / All to Him we owe." The only man-made things in heaven are the scars on Jesus' body.