

MARY AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS:

John 20:11-18

John 20:11-23; 11 “But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him, hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

We have just celebrated Easter which signifies the resurrection of our Lord and Savior from

death and the grave. It is an exciting time for us who have accepted the free gift of salvation. Resurrection tells us that He is alive. Death could not hold Him down and the grave could not contain Him. It also confirms His teaching when He told the crowd that if they destroyed His body, His temple He would raise it up or rebuild it in three days. (John 2:19)

1. It was the first day of the week early in the morning, three days after Jesus was crucified; Mary went to the tomb where Jesus' body was laid, and she did not see the body. Instead, she saw two angels in white sitting where the dead body was laid. Mary was weeping and they asked her why she was weeping. She replied, because they had taken away her Lord and she did not know where to find Him. After she replied she turned and saw Jesus, but she did not recognize Him. He had been changed from His physical body to His immortal body, a body Mary was not accustomed to see. He asked her why she was weeping, and she could not recognize His voice until He called her by her name. These verses in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 tell us that we too will be changed. That resurrection morning gives us the assurance that in the same way Jesus rose from the dead; believers who die having Jesus as their Lord and Savior will also rise up out of their graves on that resurrection morning when Jesus returns for His church. Those who are alive and those who died will be changed into our glorified bodies just as how Jesus was changed when He rose from the Tomb. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17) He told Mary not to cling to Him, but she should go to His brethren and tell them that He was going to His Father who is also their Father, Who is also His God and their God. Here we notice that Jesus did not refer to His followers as friends which He did previously. He then called them His brothers, which signified that as brothers we will also share in His inheritance. The Bible tells us that we are joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17) Mary went and told the disciples that she saw Jesus, the risen Savior and the things He said to her.

2. Mary was in no hurry to leave the tomb when she could not find Jesus. She stood there weeping. She not only wept, she stooped down and looked again into the empty tomb. Have you ever lost something, and you keep looking at the place where you last saw it and expected it to be there? That was Mary that morning. She was weeping but she did not stop looking for Jesus. She saw Him, because she hoped to see Him. There are times when we miss our encounter with Jesus because we did not wait long enough. Mary waited. The song writer says “. somewhere in the shadows you will find Jesus”.

3. Mary saw two angels in white, who were God’s messengers. They were there to convey the message of life that He was not in the grave, He is alive. They were in white clothing. The white clothing signified purity. On Christ’s return He will be coming for His Church which is pure, and we will be clothed in white walking with Him, when He returns the second time to establish His kingdom. (Revelation 19:8 KJV) One of the angels sat where the head was laid and the other where the feet were. In Exodus 25:17-22 God commanded Moses to place two cherubim of gold at the mercy seat and place them at both ends of the mercy seat. The two angels showed compassion for Mary, they asked her why she was weeping. They were pointing to Mary that it was not a time for weeping but for rejoicing. His body not being there was proof that He rose from the grave as He said He would in John 2:19.

4. The angels’ presence was not sufficient to comfort Mary. She was sorrowful out of her great love she had for her Lord. Only seeing Jesus could satisfy her. She told them that they had taken away her Lord, and she did not know where He was taken. Mary needed closure. It happened; when she turned and saw Jesus standing there. Notice that she did not turn away from seek Him, or her search for Him, she turned from the angels to Jesus. No angel could substitute for Jesus. She saw Him when she turned. She did not know that the person she saw was Jesus. Even when

He spoke to her, she did not recognize His voice. When He asked her why she was weeping, she replied Sir, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you took Him, and I will take Him away.

She needed to say her farewell.

5. Jesus called her by her name. At that moment she realized that she was talking with the risen Lord. She shouted with joy and said Teacher.!

6. Jesus commanded her not to touch Him, but to go to His and her brethren and tell them that He ascends to His Father and God who is their Father and God. Jesus did not want Mary to become familiar by touching Him, He wanted her to obey. His earthly ministry was ending it was time for her to start her's by going and telling. He gave her the message she should proclaim, He also told her where she should start. She should begin with His followers, now known as His brothers. She obeyed and went and told His brethren that she had seen the risen Lord and told them all that Jesus said to her.