

THE FIRST TO SEE

John 20:11-18

Introduction: Who Was Mary Magdalene? Luke 8:2-3; Jn 19:25; Mt 27:56; Mk 15:40

The Resurrection Moves Us ...

I. From Despair To Discovery (11-13; cf. 1 Cor 15:3-4)

¹¹ Mary was standing outside the tomb **crying**, and as she wept, she **stooped** and **looked in**. ¹² She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and **I don't know** where they have put him."

God Has Given Us Many Proofs:

1. The **Burial Cloth** (27:57-59; cf. Luke 24:12; John 20:5-7)
2. The **Burrowed Tomb** (27:60a)
3. The **Boulder Door** (27:60b; 28:2)
4. The **Bold Guards** (27:65; 28:4)
5. The **Bureaucratic Seal** (27:66)
6. The **Bystanding Women** (28:1)
7. The **Broadcasting Angel** (28:2-4)
8. The **Bountiful Appearances** (28:9-10)

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

II. From Worry To Worship (14-16; cf. Jn 11:25-27)

¹⁴ She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. ¹⁵ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." ¹⁶ "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").

III. From Possessing To Proclaiming (17-18)

¹⁷ "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

Conclusion: Because of the Resurrection ...

- A vile past has a victorious future
- We follow the Christ when others flee
- We have Good News to share in a world with bad news.