

Series: John  
(Easter Sunday)

1st Service

Title: What Happened to Jesus  
Text: John 20:1-18

HALLELUJAH, JESUS IS ALIVE! He is risen. He is alive. Let's all say it together.

HALLELUJAH, JESUS IS ALIVE. One more time: Hallelujah, Jesus is alive.

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 20. John chapter 20 is the story of the resurrection of Jesus and his appearance to various people. Our subject: WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS?

1-10  
(Read John 20:1-18)

STAND

(Prayer)

Our Father, we thank you that Jesus is alive. That He arose from the dead and he appeared unto others and they saw him. Thank you for the blessed hope<sup>of</sup> our faith in Christ that one day we are going to see Him ourselves. We are going to look upon those hands that have been wounded for us. That side that was periced out of which came blood and water convincing us that He had died. And he who died and rose again, we will be with forever. And Father, I pray for those here today without confidence in their hearts that one day they will be with Jesus in heaven. Father, we know the plan of salvation that you have given to us is so simple. That even a child can receive you. And so we pray that in these moments together there would be many who would place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for what He has already done for us. And for the fact that one day we are going to see Him again. Our Father, we look forward to that day and rejoice in the remembrance of this resurrection day. For it is in the name of Jesus that we pray.....  
Amen.

(4A) As we look at the resurrection of Jesus, I want you to notice the (1B) reaction of Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John to the disappearance of Jesus as we find in verses 1 through 10.

(1C) First of all, Mary. What was her reaction? The Bible says that Mary Magdalene came early in the morning to the tomb while it was still dark and saw the stone taken away from the tomb and she ran to tell Peter and John. WHY? Why did she run to Peter and John?

Well, I believe the reason she ran to tell John was the simple fact that John was now keeping the mother of Jesus. And who should know about the resurrection of Jesus first, then Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Or. Who should know before anyone else about the stone being rolled away and the possibility that someone had taken the body of Jesus then Peter and John? If anyone could have done something about all of this, certainly it was Peter and John. So, Mary runs to tell Peter and John.

(2C) Secondly, notice the reverence of John.

When John came to the tomb, notice he as the younger of the two so he out ran Peter. I sort of imagine Peter as a huge man. He must have been a strong man. Because the Bible says in John chapter 21 that Peter pulled in a net with 150 fish in it. So, he had to be an awful strong man.

Anyway, John arrived at the tomb first. And Vs. 5 says that he stopped and looked into the tomb, but he didn't go in. And I think we have an insight into the whole character of John at this point. John saw the linen wrappings, but he didn't go into the tomb. Some how, capture in your minds eye the reverence of John. He saw the linen wrappings, but he didn't go in. He needed time to ponder the meaning.

(3C) But not Peter. He didn't wait. He ran right by John and entered the tomb. And that is the third thing I want you to see. The reaction of Peter. He is reacting the same way he always does. He wiped out his sword in the garden and now he just rushes right into the tomb. He didn't wait for anybody. No instructions.

The Bible says that people weep much because they love much. Many Bible authorities believe that Mary Magdalene was the woman of the street as expressed in Luke chapter 7. And that woman of the street was a great sinner. The Bible says that she wept at the feet of Jesus. And she wiped his feet with her hair and poured costly ointment over his feet and wept with sorrow.

And Mary is crying again outside the tomb. And she is crying for one reason: she thought that someone had taken away the body of Jesus. And like a little child that cannot stop weeping because she hurt so much. AND I ASK YOU: WHAT ABOUT MARY?

Listen, dear friends, Mary loved Jesus. And I believe that is the primary reason why Jesus appeared, first of all, to Mary Magdalene, before anyone else. Because she loved him so much.

Do you remember what Jesus said of that woman, that sinner of the street in Luke 7? He said of her: “the reason this woman loves me so much is because she had sinned so much and I have forgiven her of so much.”

Dear friends, when we know that we are sinners; that Jesus took all of our sins upon himself at the cross, that He grants forgiveness to us, not because we deserve it, not because we can earn it, but simply because we believe that He died for us. When understand and accept all of that, in that moment we can do nothing else but love him and serve him.

I want you to know, dear friends that I am in love with Jesus Christ. And I hope you are too. I hope you love him with all of your heart, and mind, and soul. And like this woman, Mary Magdalene, whose heart wouldn't stop weeping, “SOMEONE HAS TAKEN AWAY MY LORD.” Do you love Jesus that much?

2 The second thing I notice is this great concern of Mary over where they had taken Jesus. As a matter of fact, the angles had asked Mary, “Woman, why are you weeping?” And she answered in Vs. 13, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

And when she talked with Jesus in Vs. 15, she thought He was the Gardner, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him always.”

And the thing that struck me is that Mary is blind to the people around her. Totally blind. If she would have just turned and looked directly at Jesus she would have seen him. And I believe the reason why she acted this way was because of her great concern for Jesus. So much so, that she didn't notice the people around her. Now, the question is: WHY DIDN'T SHE GET ASSURANCE FROM THE ANGELS? WHY DIDN'T SHE GET ASSURANCE FROM THAT MAN WHO SHE THOUGHT WAS THE GARDNER? Do you understand? Not until she knew that He was Jesus, did she have that assurance. And I say to you, dear friends, that you will never have assurance of the resurrection in your heart until you know that you are personally related to Jesus.

So many people are interested in religion. And I am thankful for that. The world wide interest of people in “Ultimate reality.” They want to know if there is a God and if He has revealed himself. And all of that is good. I am glad people are concerned and interested in the facts about Jesus. But, I want to tell you! You may have heard all the facts about Jesus, but if you have never personally related yourself Him, you will never experience the peace and the joy and the confidence and the assurance that the resurrection really happened. It isn't because we have facts about Jesus which saves us, but it is because we have committed ourselves to those facts. And we believe them to be true. And we have now trusted those facts for ourselves. And we believe personally in Jesus Christ as our savior.

Dear friends, when you confess your sins and ask Jesus to come into your life, at that moment you are saved. At that moment you become alive to the things of God. You see, some of you listening to me right now, may not realize that you are spiritually dead. Thus, you are unresponsive to God and separated from God's love. But, the Bible teaches that the moment you place your faith in Jesus, you come alive, spiritually. And you are born of God's Holy Spirit.

(3C) Now, third, notice Mary's conversation with Jesus in verses 14-17. Just a couple of things, here, that I hope will bless your heart.

(1D) Number one, notice her interpretation of this man. At first, she thought that Jesus was the gardener. But, the thing that I want you to see is the two questions Jesus ask Mary. His first question: WHY ARE YOU WEEPING? The question is WHY? After all the grave is empty. The linen wrappings are there. So, why are you crying?

And the second question: WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING? Did she forget that the one standing before her was the resurrection and the life? Do you remember what Jesus said to Martha? He said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me shall live even if he dies."

Two questions: WHY ARE YOU WEEPING? ... and ... WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING? Two questions which point to himself.

(2D) Secondly, notice how Jesus identifies himself. Man, I will tell you. I wish I could have been there. Just one little word. MARY! You see, up to this pint she didn't know who she was talking to. But, when Jesus said, "MARY" Boy! She knew who it was. Can you capture the joy that must have <sup>Filled</sup> ~~led~~ her heart? As she was crying and weeping thinking that someone had taken Jesus away and then to see Him standing there. And to hear Him say: MARY!

I wonder, dear friends, if Jesus would come and say: John! Sue! Bill! <sup>Tom</sup> ~~Tom~~! Ann! ~~I love~~ you. ~~Don't weep anymore.~~ ~~Has he~~ here. I wonder, would we hear his voice?

The Bible says that He calls his own by name. He knows every hair on your head. They are all numbered. And God can subtract as well as add.

The Bible says, "worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive all honor and power, for He has created all things for his pleasure."

And you my friends, were created for the pleasure of God. God loves you. He knows all about your life from beginning to end. There isn't a thing you have ever done, said, or thought that God doesn't know. He knows all about us. And even though he knows everything we have ever done, and yet, in knowing it all, He still went to the cross, that old rugged cross, and he suffered and died <sup>there</sup> ~~etc.~~. And the Bible teaches that all of our sins were placed on Him <sup>AS</sup>. He hung on that cross. Dear friends, he died for you, and He <sup>died</sup> for me. He substituted his life for us. And the Bible teaches that He who died, on the third day he arose from the dead. Proving that he was sufficient to pay for the sins of the whole world. That is why we can shout: HALLELUJAH! JESUS IS ALIVE. And now He is calling you. He calls you by name. OH! How I pray that you will respond.

(3D) Third, notice, Mary's response in Vs 17-18. The Bible says that when she recognized Jesus she fell at His feet and wrapped her arms around His legs and wouldn't let Him go. Oh, she did what any of us would have done. Over come with grief and then to hear her name and to see the living Lord, she fell down at His feet and wrapped her arms around His legs. She wasn't going to let Him go

She wasn't the only one. The Bible says that later on when Jesus met the women <sup>on</sup> the road they did the same thing. They wrapped their arms around His legs and they didn't want to let Him go.

The point is that when you really receive Jesus as your Lord and savior, you will never want to <sup>let</sup> him go. Why? Because, like Mary, you will experience the love of the resurrected Christ.

Dear friends, I am excited about Mary's attitude. I am excited about Mary's love of Jesus. Wouldn't it be great if we all felt that way? In Acts 4:13 it says that when the people beheld the

boldness of Peter and John they realized the reason for their boldness. It was because they had been with Jesus. Let me tell you something. You spend some time with Jesus, and people will know it.

*around*

Oh, I wish I could have been there at the resurrection. I wish I could have been one of the disciples. Anyone but Judas that is! I would have loved to have been one of those disciples and been with Jesus. But, listen dear friends, we are going to have the same thrill in heaven. We are going to be with Him. And we will have all the time of eternity to know that Jesus is the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. It will be great. I hope you are looking forward to the time? Man! I can hardly wait. We are going to see those scars in his hands and in his feet. We are going to see the wound in His side. And like Thomas we are going to fall down at his feet and cry, "MY LORD AND MY GOD" It gives me goose bumps.

*OK*

(3D) Then, finally, I want you to understand the commission Jesus gave to Mary. The great commission was given, first, ~~to a woman~~ <sup>to Mary</sup>. Isn't that great Ladies? He gave the great commission to ~~Mary~~. "Go and Tell." And Mary came and announced to the disciples: "I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!" Do you know what this is teaching? It means, once you have experienced the resurrection, and you know that Jesus is alive, then GO AND TELL. Today, go and tell someone that Jesus is alive.

*Resurrection* 11

Dear friends, the Easter message is not complete unless the message is taken out of this room. That is the problem with the church. No one is going out and telling folks that JESUS IS ALIVE.

At the end of those 40 days, where Jesus appeared to hundreds of people, he said: "Go and preach the Gospel to every nation that repentance and forgiveness of sin is for all people. And after the Holy spirit has come upon you, you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem (that is



~~OKed~~  
Sacramento) Judea (that is ~~California~~ <sup>Sacramento county</sup> Sarmaria (that is California), and even to the farthest part of the earth.:"

My Dear Christian friends, have we lost sight of the complete meaning of the resurrection? The gospel is not to set here week after week and enjoy Church. Oh. I know we need to be taught and feed the word of God. I know that every believer should be in church each Lord's day. But, that is <sup>only</sup> part of the Great Commission. The part that we often forget, or, just plain do not do, is to go and tell the good news that Jesus Christ is alive. That Jesus came into the world to seek and to save that which is lost.

Dear friends, Jesus is alive. That is the meaning of <sup>Resurrect</sup> Easter. And I trust he is alive in your life, today.

Shall we close in Prayer