



Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017  
Celebration · 9:00 am  
Elevation · 11:00 am  
Pastor David Mitchell

## THE RETURN OF THE KING · JOHN 20

The first witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Mary of Magdala · John 20:11-18

### **Jesus rising from the dead changed Mary's life and can change your life today.**

John 20:16-18 - "Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabboni!' (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.' Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord, and that He had said these things to her.'"

- **She turns to Jesus: from her lonely, naturalistic, self-reliant life.**

Matthew 18:3 - Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven"

John 5:24 - "Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.'"

- **She embraces Jesus: He is physically alive and seeking to have a personal and purpose-filled relationship.**

John 20:19b-21 - "Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'<sup>20</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'"

- **She submits to Jesus: God is "your Father." Jesus is her "Lord." His Kingdom rules in her heart as she trusts Him. Jesus' victory replaces shame with forgiveness, fear with faith and death with life.**

John 14:1-3,6 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.<sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.<sup>3</sup> If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also...<sup>6</sup> I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 20:31 - "These have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

### **Therefore, here are three promises we can hold onto today:**

- **Jesus is present even when we cannot see Him or recognize Him.**

John 20:14 - "When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus."

- **Jesus provides insight even when we do not understand Him.**

John 20:16 - "Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabboni!' which means, Teacher"

- **Jesus gives hope when we turn completely to embrace His rule and reign.**

John 20:17-18 - "Jesus said to her, 'Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.' Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord...'"

**Will you turn or return to our resurrected Christ and allow His loving reign over your life?**

## Digging Deeper

**The facts of Jesus' resurrection are overwhelming:** The disciples, who walked with Him for three years, could not comprehend the magnitude of His plan: To die for their sins to be forgiven, be buried to show He truly died, and to be resurrected physically on the third day to prove His divinity, His power to forgive sins, His victory over the grave and his defeat of the enemy. Read Luke 18:31-34 which shows that Jesus had always planned to die and rise again the third day, but the disciples did not understand Him.

**In the presence of many witnesses:** To help us understand and believe the reality of Jesus' resurrection, here is a list of witnesses who encountered Him afterward. After the miracle of rising from the dead Jesus did 40 days of follow up, providing proof He is really alive and giving final instructions to His followers:

- Jesus appears to Mary. John 20:11-18
- Jesus appears to the other women. Matthew 28:9-10
- Temple guard inform the religious leaders of the angels and empty tomb, then are paid off to keep quiet. Matthew 28:11-15
- Jesus appears to Cleopas and companion on road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13-22 (late afternoon)
- Jesus appears to Peter. Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5a
- Cleopas and companion meet with most of the other disciples and Jesus appears to them behind locked doors. Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23 (evening)
- Thomas does not believe they have seen Jesus. John 20:24-25
- One week after resurrection day to Thomas and 10 other disciples; again behind locked doors. John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5b
- To seven of His disciples in Galilee an unknown number of days afterwards. "Peter, do you love Me?" John 21:1-25
- To the 11 disciples on a mountain in Galilee. Great Commission. Matthew 28:16-20
- To 500 disciples at one time. 1 Corinthians 15:6
- To His "brother" James. 1 Corinthians 15:7
- Various other meetings with the 11 disciples during the 40 day period after the Resurrection. Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

**Further proof:** Perhaps the best evidence of the resurrected Jesus is when He is evident in our lives. What seven qualities in 2 Peter 1:4-7 reveal the "divine nature" of Christ in your life? Who are you revealing these qualities to so they can see Christ in your life? 2 Peter 1:8 says this will keep you from being unfruitful? Why do you think this makes you a fruitful and productive follower of Christ? Finally, 2 Peter 1:10-11 gives us great encouragement to live today holding onto the promises of Jesus – trusting in Jesus as our King, working out our calling as citizens of His Kingdom, and looking forward in hope of His return when He will set all things right (Matthew 25:31-34; Revelation 22).

## Next Steps

**A prayer to make Jesus King of your life:** "God, I know that I have sinned against you and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus is Lord who came to live a perfect life, die as payment for my sins and rose from the dead to bring freedom, restoration and eternal life to all who believe. I do not have all the answers, but help me to learn from Christ as He leads and guides. Please remove any fear or uncertainty I may feel about the circumstances of my life as I look to Christ as my Rescuer and Ruler. From now on, help me to follow You daily, turn from my sin and live in step with Your Holy Spirit according to the Bible. May I find great pleasure and joy in serving You as I fully place my life in Your hands for the purpose of Your Kingdom and Glory. Amen." Discover more about the good news of Jesus and following Him at [calvarylife.org/jesus](http://calvarylife.org/jesus)

**Join us Sunday Mornings:** Come each Sunday at 9:00 + 11:00 am as we begin a new series in Galatians, learning how to experience true freedom and a fruitful life as we trust fully in Jesus. Details at [calvarylife.org/series](http://calvarylife.org/series)

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