

Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

June 11, 2023

Day 1: John 20:1-2

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'

In the Gospel of John there is a strong emphasis on being a witness (John 1:7). The ones who knew about Jesus obtained their knowledge through actually witnessing the events. They were then supposed to "witness" to others. Mary Magdalene is the first witness to the Resurrection and the first to tell the Good News.

Question: Why do you think we have Easter on Sunday if Monday is the first day of the week?

Challenge: Try setting your clock a bit earlier this week and begin each day with a prayer.

Or go to bed a little earlier and end each day with prayer

Scripture: Mark 16:1-20

Day 2: John 20:3-10

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings laying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

As of yet they had not seen the Lord so the first thing the Disciples believed was that the tomb was empty. Peter has been the one who has been first in a number of things, not all of which put him in a good light. See John 6:67- he confesses Jesus, John 13:6-10 - he misunderstands Jesus, John 18:15 - his denial, John 20:6

- he is first into the Tomb. The fact that the wrappings were neatly in place demonstrates the body was not taken because if someone stole the body they would not put the wrappings neatly inside. It is important to note that they did believe that the tomb was empty but as of yet they did not know what it meant.

Question: Do you think you would have waited until Peter arrived if you were first to the tomb?

Challenge: What was it that convinced you that Jesus was God's son?

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-15

Day 3: John 20:11-13

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

In this case the angels are not messengers of God as they often are, but evidence of the breaking in of the kingdom of God. It is as if the boundary between heaven and earth has been broken down. Mary's weeping recalls Jesus' words in John 16:20 - "Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will

rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy" and 16:22 - "So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

Question: Do you have an opinion as to what an angel is?

Challenge: Pick out someone you love. How would you recognize them if they were in a different body?

Scripture: Luke 24:1-35

Day 4: John 20:14-15

When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.'

"Who are you looking for?" recalls Jesus' first words (John 1:38) to the first disciples that came to Him. Jesus' question is a call to discipleship. Mary is greeted with the same words and she too, along with all of us, is called to be a witness. Jesus is the one to announce the Resurrection. He told Pilate that he had the power to give his life and the power to take it up again. Jesus demonstrates he is the Son of God by taking His life back.

Question: Do you know of any other figure in history that has come back from the dead?

Challenge: If Jesus' Resurrection put an end to the worry about death then what are you worries now?

Scripture: John 20:1-20

Day 5: John 20:16-18

Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (this means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus' work was not done with his Resurrection. He must ascend to God and sit at the right hand of God and intercede for us. Jesus is not concerned with someone touching him but of trying to hold Him here. Jesus' ministry was to teach, preach, heal, die, rise and ascend to God, from where he came. All this is so that we might believe that He is the Son of God.

Question: How do we know that Jesus was not afraid to have someone touch him?

Challenge: Why is the ascension important?

Scripture: I Corinthians 15:1-19

Day 6: John 20:19-20

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

The ones gathered in the room were not just the eleven disciples. It was all who followed Jesus. Jesus is speaking not only to the ones in the room but to the entire Church down through the ages. Jesus is calling us to the ministry of moving people from unbelief to belief.

Question: Who do you think was in the room?

Challenge: How have you seen Jesus in your life?

Scripture: I Corinthians 15:20-58