

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

In this week's sermon, Pastor Don leads us through John 20 as we walk through what ultimately made Jesus the definitively *Unexpected Messiah* - His resurrection from the dead! Today's study will be looking specifically at the experience of Mary Magdalene after the resurrection, and to get your group started let everyone describe a time when they mistook someone for the wrong person - what happened?

BIG THOUGHT

Jesus' interaction with Mary after His resurrection shows us that even death itself can't keep Him from being in a loving relationship with us!

1. To get started, read Luke 8:1-3. What do we learn about Mary in this passage? Which of the details in these verses do you find the most surprising? Why?
2. Read John 20:1-2. What would have been your first thought if you had arrived and found the tomb open? Who do you think Mary thought the "they" were? (v. 2) Why?
3. Now read v. 3-10. What do Peter and John (the other disciple) see in the tomb that she didn't? Would you have been like John and hesitated to go inside or like Peter and run on in? Why do you think John mentions that the head cloth was folded and laid aside - what does that infer? (v. 7) What do you think the disciples were feeling at this point?

4. Read v. 11-13. Why do you think Mary stayed back? How does this affirm our need to experience grief rather than try to avoid it? Why do you think the angels chose to talk with Mary rather than the disciples? Do you think Mary knew they were angels? Why or why not?
5. Now read 14-17. What tone do you think Jesus used with Mary? Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Him - did He look different? Was she blinded by her grief? Did He conceal who He was? Something else? What do you think Jesus meant in v. 17?
6. To finish, read v. 18. If you had been one of the disciples who heard Mary's exciting news, how do you think you would have reacted? Have you (like Mary) ever been able to share with someone about the reality of Jesus? If so, what happened?

Take it Further

If you're in a tough time right now, talk with Jesus and ask Him to meet you in the middle of the hurt to "speak your name" and bring you comfort. Then thank Him that not even death can separate us from His companionship!

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Romans 6:9

Day 4: Luke 24:39

Day 2: Acts 1:3

Day 5: Acts 3:15

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Day 6: Revelation 1:18

Memory Verses: John 20:16



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