The Morning That Turns Tears into Joy April 21, 2019

*John 20:11-18 Series: Jesus Swallowed the Bitter Pill That Heals Us*

The evidence for Jesus' resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things: First, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, you have to change the way you live. —Wolfhart Pannenberg

Intro: Fuzzy thinking about the resurrection.

1. Have you shed Mary’s tears? *Death is like cement to our disappointments.*
2. It takes time to face the tears of death.

v. 10 *Then the disciples went back to their homes.*

v. 11 *But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb.*

1. A religious experience can’t wipe away our tears.

v. 12 *And she saw two angels in white …*

1. Tears need to be questioned not just wiped away.

v. 13 *They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”*

v. 13 *She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”*

v. 15 *Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”*

* Why do you think losing Jesus was so devastating to Mary?
* Why does the death of a loved one cause so much grief? i.e. What are some of the factors that contribute to our mourning?
* In light of Easter, both the angels and Jesus question Mary’s tears. Why? How does Easter minister to our grief?

1. Have you met Mary’s Saviour?

*A resurrected Saviour undoes death’s finality.*

1. Jesus first appears to someone who felt death’s pain.

v. 14 *Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing …*

1. Our assumptions can hide reality from us.

v. 14 *… she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.*

v. 15 *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.”*

1. A word from Jesus turns our tears into joy.

v. 16 *Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).*

* If you had been resurrected after the crucifixion, who might you have been tempted to go to first? Why do you think Jesus revealed Himself to Mary?
* Why did Mary assume that Jesus was the gardener?
* What are some of the assumptions that can get in the way of you seeing what Jesus might want to do in your life?
* Why did hearing her name bring such joy to Mary?

1. Have you experienced Mary’s joy? *Trusting a resurrected Saviour means letting go of the earthly one.*
2. Holding on to the old keeps us from embracing the new.

v. 17 *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me …”*

1. Relating to a resurrected Saviour is different than relating to an earthly one.

v. 17 *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father …”*

John 16:6-7 *But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.*

1. Trusting in a resurrected Saviour fills us with joy and purpose.

v. 17 … *go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’*

v. 18 *Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.*

* Why do you think Mary held on to Jesus the way she did?
* Why was it inappropriate for her to keep holding on to Him?
* What’s different about relating to a resurrected Saviour vs. an earthly one? What did Mary have to let go of?
* Why is it ‘to our advantage’ that Jesus ascended into heaven?
* Where do you most need to apply this message to your life?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study John 7:19-36.

Notes