

AN UNEXPECTED SIGHTING

John 20:1-18

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, tomb, early, dark, stone, Simon Peter, taken, Lord, out of the tomb, running together, disciple, stooping, saw, linen cloths, face cloth, folded up, believed, did not understand, Scripture, rise from the dead, homes, weeping, angels, head, feet, woman, seeking, Aramaic, Rabbi, Rabboni, teacher, ascended, Father, my brothers, my Father, your Father, mt God, your God, sent, went, announced

Introduction

Jesus was dead. Secret disciples buried him. It was finished. A joyless despair hung over those who followed Jesus. Darkness was everywhere as the first day of the week arrived. Mary Magdalene made her way to the tomb, shocked by what she saw. The stone was rolled from the tomb. Her mind began to race, but she only had one theory—someone had stolen the body. She raced to tell the disciples. Peter and John dashed to the tomb, and what they saw would change them forever. This is the place for John where he believed.

Mary stays consumed by grief. However, when she stoops to look in the tomb again, she is met by two angels who have a question, "Why are you weeping?" She is so consumed by her pain that she misses the reality of what's taking place. Then it happens—AN UNEXPECTED SIGHTING. Jesus meets her in the garden, but she doesn't recognize him. Jesus calls her by name, and finally, she sees. Overcome by joy, she holds on tightly, but Jesus sends her on a mission. Go and tell his family he's alive and ascending to the Father. May her words be our words—I have seen the Lord!

Outline

Sundays are a reminder that God acts in power on your behalf (v. 1).

Resurrection power is at work even when you are tired, discouraged, hopeless, or ready to give up (vv. 2-4).

Some people stay on the outside and look around, some come inside and remain spectators, but some come inside and see and believe (vv. 5-8).

Supernatural experiences do not guarantee faith (vv. 12-15).

Grace adopts us into God's family, unleashing unrivaled fatherly care and provision (v. 17).

Jesus sends you to share the good news (vv. 17-18).

Application

What are you looking for?

Have you seen the Lord?

Do you live as someone sent to share the good news?

Questions

1. What are some of the dangers associated with being so familiar with the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How can we keep a sense of wonder around the resurrection?
2. Why is grief so powerful? Hebrews 2:14-18 How can we support people when they are grieving?
3. Name some ways we "see" Jesus.
4. What are some of the family privileges that we enjoy because we have been adopted into God's family?
5. Why do you think most people keep their faith private? (Matthew 5:14-16) Is that something you struggle with personally? Why or why not? How can people best encourage you?