

Jesus' Lesson

Week of April. 6 - 12, 2020

Introduction

Reading and hearing the Easter story is always something to look forward to each year. This is the best story, EVER! John presents us with a story that is the heart of the Gospel. Jesus, who was crucified, has been raised. We watch as Peter, Mary and an unnamed disciple discover that Jesus' tomb is now empty. This is a story that flows full circle - we see people searching, we feel sadness and fear and then we are rewarded with surprise and joy at finding Jesus resurrected! As Christians, we know that the resurrection is only the beginning of the story.

Lesson *John 20:1-18*

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (meaning teacher)

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Questions

1. When Jesus confronts Mary, her grief and pain prevent her from seeing Jesus who is standing in front of her. What do you think makes it difficult for you to sometimes see, with eyes of faith, the God that is right in front of you?
2. Why did Mary call out Rabboni (teacher) when she recognizes Jesus?
3. After Jesus has revealed himself to Mary, why do you think he tells her not to touch him?
4. Why doesn't Jesus simply appear to everyone so that they might believe him?
5. Would you share with a non-believer about Jesus' resurrection? How do you think they would react?
6. What would you have done if you had been at the tomb and seen Jesus?

Prayer

Dear Lord, we praise you, our Great and Awesome God. We glorify You for your almighty power that raised Jesus Christ from His death to save us all from our sins. He is risen, He is risen indeed! Amen