

Celebration - Sunday 8:45 am

Elevation - Sunday 10:45 am

April 12th, 2009

Pastor David Mitchell

Easter Sunday

Join the Revolution

John 20



JOIN THE REVOLUTION

Does God just not make much sense to you at times?

Does God seem absent and His Word confusing?

Are God's plans for your life uncertain?

Do you feel like you are losing your faith, wanting to call it quits?

IF YOU ANSWER YES TO MOST OF THESE, THEN TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE IS FOR YOU.

➤ For even the most faithful followers, uncertain times may come with Christ.

- He may seem absent when I need Him the most. John 20: 2
- His message may seem confusing when I need to understand His ways. John 20: 9, 13
- His power to help may seem lacking when I am weakest. John 20: 2, 15

➤ For those who turn to Christ and believe in Him, He promises...

- He will be present even when you do not see Him. Trust Him. John 20:14
- His power will overwhelm you, in His time and way. Wait for it. John 20:16, 17
- His message will make sense in time. Believe it. John 20:17, 18

Ephesians 1:18-20

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead...*

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life

Do you believe in Jesus and His resurrection power for your life and salvation?

DIGGING DEEPER

JOHN 20

Try to put yourself in Mary's shoes as she came to the tomb.

Read **Luke 8:1-3** to learn how Jesus transformed Mary's life.

Read **Mark 16:3, 4** to learn why Mary came to the tomb and who else may have been there.

Read **Matthew 26:65, 66** to learn how strongly the tomb of Jesus was sealed and how much Pilate knew about Jesus' plans to rise again on the third day. As you read this passage, it almost seems as though Pilate had better knowledge of what Jesus would attempt on the third day than the disciples.

As Mary, Peter and John came to the tomb and discovered it empty, what was their natural thinking on why the tomb was empty?

--when life seems confusing or plans are falling apart, do you revert to a humanistic natural way of thinking, or believe that God is still in charge and going to accomplish something great?

It seems Mary, John and Peter had forgotten Jesus' teaching about His death and resurrection. What had Jesus told them in **Matthew 20:17-19**?

What does this tell you about the importance of knowing, memorizing and trusting in the truth of God's Word, especially in times of testing?

After Mary, John and Peter found the tomb empty and figured somebody stole the body. What did Mary do in vs. 11? What did John and Peter do in vs. 10? What do you do when God brings a disappointment in your life?

What should you do?

God begins to work in Mary's life in vs. 12 and 13. Think about how slowly and gradually Jesus begins to reveal Himself. He could have just jumped out from behind and bush and joyfully greeted her. But instead, He allowed some time to pass where she did not see Him, did not know it was Him, talked with Him but was oblivious to His presence. Interesting how Jesus will work like that. Why do you think He proceeds so slowly to make Himself known to Mary and take away her grief? When have you experienced times when Jesus seems absent or makes His presence and provision known to you slowly?

In vs. 15, even as she is talking to Jesus unknowingly, she is trying to fix the problem by herself. She will "**take Him away.**" How hard is it to believe in the supernatural power of God and His sovereign control when all seems to be lost? What area of your life do you need to trust in the supernatural power of God and His control?

Vs. 16-18, Jesus finally makes Himself known, His powerful resurrection is now real to her and life is beginning to make sense. What does Jesus tell her to do in vs. 17, 18? Jesus is calling us all to do that—tell others how we have seen the Lord at work in our lives and share His truth.

What does **Hebrews 11:1-6** teach you about faith in Christ, even when we do not see Him?

What promises can you claim from Paul's prayers: Read **Ephesians 1:15-23; Ephesians 3:20, 21.**



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CONNECT. GROW. REACH
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800
web | calvarylife.org