

Easter || 2019

Awakening!

Sermon Synopsis: Christ meets us in the tomb, and causes light to shine into our hearts

John 20:11-18 (ESV)

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her. [*]

Pete Best (hopelessness)

Some of you feel hopeless too. Mary did.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb...They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." (John 20:11-13, ESV)

Maybe some of you are facing a tomb of hopelessness today.

You might not have the exact experiences, but maybe you do have the same growing sense that all is not right with the world. With you.

How are you handling that hopelessness?

1. You're overwhelmed

"But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb." (John 20:11, ESV)

2. You're indifferent

"Then the disciples went back to their homes." (John 20:10, ESV)

3. You're controlling

"Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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." (John 20:14-15, ESV)

Hopelessness is rooted in the curse of death

No matter what we do, we can't change death.

Some of you may not feel hopeless

Ernest Becker (cultural anthropologist): even the good things we do are a type of cover-up "a reflex of the terror of death" (we want to live forever, so we...)

Live in ways that will hopefully give meaning, significance, happiness, health

We want to know we aren't wasting our life.

So we fill our life with activity/stuff/people/accomplishments, hoping it will satisfy us.

Maybe that's how you feel.
You've spent your life trying to be happy, but something is still wrong.
*those are symptoms (**bandaid**)

The problem = death itself must be defeated.

The One who defeated death is standing in the tomb!

And right in the middle of death, despair, hopelessness, JESUS calls her out.

“Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (16) (heart lang — maligayan bati)

He calls her by name—she has an AWAKENING.

Christ is calling you by name! [*]

You can miss Him even when he's right in front of you!

She turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. (John 20:14, ESV)

The best thing thing ever can be standing right in front of you and you can miss it.

That is the danger for some of you today—that you will miss it. That you will ignore him.

Maybe you've been ignoring him for years.

The love of God is bigger than than your _____.

The good news is not that we have pursued God so well, but that He has pursued us.

At some point, Mary has an AWAKENING. She goes from calling Him a gardener, to teacher, to telling the disciples,

“I have seen the Lord!” (17-18)

[*]

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:37-39)