

SERMON OUTLINE John 20:11-18

I Have Seen the Lord

WHAT MARY EXPECTED

WHAT MARY FOUND

Angels

Jesus

WHAT MARY DID

Tried to Cling to Jesus

Obedied Jesus

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

There are three big ideas in this passage. First, in this life, godliness means understanding that because God's ways are higher than our ways, what we expect from God and what we get are not always connected. Second, the ability to see things as they truly are is always a gift from God. And third, Jesus is risen from the dead! The main takeaways for us are to pray and trust—pray for spiritual eyes and trust God's invisible promises.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Had you noticed that John doesn't interpret Jesus' death or resurrection in chapters 19-20? Why do you think that is?
3. Why do you think Jesus' first followers responded as they did to Jesus' death and resurrection?
4. Can you think of a time that you were extremely happy or sad about something that ended up not being what you thought?
5. How do you live both expectantly and realistically, both in light of God's promises and God's ordinary work?
6. Talk about a time God worked in an unexpected way in an otherwise ordinary situation.
7. Do you think you've ever "entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2; John 20:12-13)?
8. How many times have you prayed for some hardship to end only to find out later that God was using it in ways far better than you asked for or imagined, missed the mighty work of God in your life, or thought only in terms of what you could understand?
9. How often do you feel the need for God to open your eyes to what's really in front of you? How often do you pray for that?
10. Can you think of some aspect of God's nature/presence that you missed before but see clearly now?
11. Do you find yourself longing to cling to Jesus? Is He truly your greatest treasure?
12. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Read the rest of John, chapters 20-21 and ask the Spirit to help you consider what it says and means with greater care.
14. Read Wayne Grudem's chapter on the doctrine of the resurrection in Systematic Theology.
15. Spend some time this week identifying areas of your life that are confused and uncertain because you are not holding fast to the Word of God. Begin praying for God's clarifying and confidence-giving grace to overwhelm you in those areas.
16. Make a list of biblical passages that describe Jesus as the greatest treasure.
17. Share the good news of the empty grave with a non-Christian this week.
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG one thing they got from this sermon and how you can pray for them in light of it.
19. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon and for someone to help.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God that He is alive, gracious, merciful, and can see all things perfectly. Praise God for being eternal, immortal, invisible, and wise. Praise God for being a comfort to the broken-hearted and a help to those in trouble.
21. Confess. Confess ways you are not expecting God to keep His promises (in your quiet times, evangelism, participation in worship or ministry at Grace, etc.). Confess ways that believing lies is causing you unnecessary fear or sadness.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He has given you eyes to see and that He is making your vision ever clearer. Thank God that Jesus died for your sins, but also that He did not stay dead. Thank God for giving us the greatest treasure of all.
23. Supplication. Ask God to give sight to three specific people in your life who are spiritually blind. Ask God to give clearer spiritual vision to three specific people at Grace Church such that they would treasure Jesus above all things..