

aired on KALS May 13, 2003

John 20:1-18

1. “Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb.
2. So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.’
3. So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb.
4. They two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;
5. and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in.
6. And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*,
7. and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.
8. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.
9. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

10. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.
11. But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;
12. and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.
13. And they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’
14. When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus.
15. 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.’
16. Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means, Teacher).
17. Jesus said to her, ‘Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, “I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.”’
18. Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and *that* He had said these things to her.”

Now here is an amazing thing. As we noted in an

earlier lesson, the guards at the tomb were the first to see Jesus alive at His bodily resurrection. And in this text we find that the first person Jesus appeared to and spoke with was Mary Magdalene on the very morning of the resurrection.

Jesus could have appeared to Peter and John when they ran and entered the tomb that morning. But He chose to come to Mary first.

Why did He decide to speak with Mary first? Was it because of her persistence and loyalty? Note: She had come to the tomb while it was still dark and finding it empty, reported to the men closest to Jesus, and returned with them staying at His tomb, weeping, while the men left to go to their homes.

From the time Jesus had cast the seven demons from Mary Magdalene she was there for Him. Luke 8:2 indicates Mary, along with others, supported Jesus' ministry financially. She was there, with His mother, at His crucifixion. She was there when Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus laid Jesus' body in the tomb.

Mary was there for Jesus then. Are you here for Jesus now?