

At the Empty Tomb: Part 1 of 3

by Christine Wentzel

Thank you, Lord, for including the account of your first resurrection appearance as recalled by your servant, John. As women, You know how we struggle about our purpose, how we get lost in the details, diverted from our Gospel mission and how we need Your emotional support and reassurance to carry on. Help us see with fresh eyes the encouragement, purpose and promise in Your loving exchange with Mary at the empty tomb. Amen...



Before we go to John, let's take a quick look at the Gospel of Mark where we learn a little about Mary's past.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. Mark 16:9

It's hard to imagine what life was like for Mary. Anyone on intimate terms with mental illness might be able to glimpse at the chaos going on in her mind and soul. We don't know how she knew of Jesus, the Nazarene, but it doesn't matter. For such a time as this, she was in the path of the Healer, the Miracle-Worker, for all the world, present and future, to see. Jesus sees her and knows exactly what is wrong and filled with divine compassion, drives away the demons. In a blink of an eye, she is made whole—physically, emotionally and above all completely spiritually new.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you... Ezekiel 36:26

In pure thankfulness, joy and with the gift of faith, she travels with Him along with many others devoted to the care of His needs and to learn from His wisdom. Yet she sees Him through the eyes of her expectations: a heaven-sent King David-type readying Israel for God's kingdom on earth.

Mary's/our view: As she sits at the foot of His cross, she doesn't understand what is going on and why her King is being tortured and left to die. Fear and doubt take over for the evidence around her is too strong. She can't fathom any outcome but death.

God's view: The holy Lamb of God braces Himself against the splintery wood of the cross as every sin of mankind that was, is and is yet to be gets nailed onto Him. He becomes the atoning sacrifice in our place to make His people right with their Father once again. In bearing the last one, He breathes out, "It is finished."



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Prayer: 29. As I imagine standing by the side of the road in Jerusalem, waving...

Super Girl: 67. The Lenten season is coming to a close, culminating...

Scripture References: John 3:3, 5; 2 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 51:10; Jeremiah 24:7; Ezekiel 11:19; Ezekiel 18:31; Zechariah 7:12

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