

At the Empty Tomb: Part 2 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...



...Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. John 20:11-12

Mary's/our view: She's been grieving for three days. She is exhausted, but her desire to give her Healer and Teacher a proper burial spurs her on. Looking in the tomb, her eyes see heavenly beings instead of a dead body. Perhaps her tears could include fears of losing her mind as well as her Master.

The angels' view: Pure joy and exaltation—the resurrected Lamb of God is victorious!

They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” John 20:13a. They are on duty to deliver messages to their Lord's precious people. They have great news to report and see no need for tears. Don't these humans remember what Jesus taught them?

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don't know where they have put him.” John 20:13b. At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

Mary's/our view: Mary has drawn conclusions based on circumstantial evidence muddied by grief, not on Jesus' teachings. The last thing on her mind was seeing Him alive. She needs some answers maybe this gardener can help.

God's view: Jesus is right there with her, looking at her in empathy and love—once again ready to help her through her pain.

“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” John 20:15a. The Comforter encourages her to talk, to remember the One she is seeking—the One who healed her and many others; who raised the dead, calmed storms, walked on water, and spoke of His identity and His Father's mission for Him.

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” John 20:15b. She can't hear her Shepherd's voice because of all the “what if” and “how to” noises in her head. She doesn't understand the questions and nothing is ringing a bell, until...



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Scripture References: Luke 2:44; John 20:13

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