

## When Jesus Calls You By Name

John 20.11-18

Jesus has risen from the dead, but those closest to Him are having a hard time believing He's alive! Throughout resurrection day, Jesus appears to His closest followers. Mary is the first, and John records details of their meeting. How can this narrative speak to us today?

Events on resurrection day, after Jesus rose from the dead

- Women find empty tomb; Mary runs to tell Peter and John
- Other women enter tomb; see two angels; leave to tell disciples
- Peter and John find empty tomb; Mary sees Jesus, then other women
- Jews bribe guards; women tell disciples; Jesus appears to Peter
- Jesus meets men on road to Emmaus, then appears to the disciples

An Unlikely Encounter

*Why was Mary Magdalene the first? (Mark 16.9)*

- She was passionate about Jesus
- She was patiently waiting for Him
- She was persistent in seeking Jesus

*Why did Jesus tell Mary not to hold onto Him? New things have come!*

- New relationships
- New relatives
- New responsibility

Have you heard Jesus call you by name?

...the sheep hear his voice,  
and he calls his own by name...

John 10.3

1. Looking back 2000 years on, it's easy for us to take the resurrection for granted. We've heard about it a hundred times. We know the end of the story. But for His followers who had seen Him crucified, and His body buried, it wasn't so easy. Put yourself in their shoes! What was Mary thinking after she saw the empty tomb? After she and the other women saw the risen Jesus, and told the disciples, what was their reaction (Mk. 16.11; Lk. 24.11)? When the two men who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus told the disciples, what did they think (Mk. 16.13)? When Jesus appeared to the disciples in person, what did they think (Lk. 24.37)? What did Thomas say a week later (Jn. 20.24-25)?! Even later, in Galilee, some still doubted (Mt. 28.17)!
2. As Mary stood outside the empty tomb, John says she was weeping (20.11). Even after seeing two angels (she didn't recognize them as angels then), she is weeping (13). Why? When she sees Jesus, why do you think she doesn't recognize Him (14-15)? What caused her to finally recognize Jesus (16)?
3. In John 20.17, Jesus tells Mary to stop clinging to Him, because He has not yet ascended to the Father. Why do you think Jesus said this? What difference would His ascending to the Father make? What is this referring to? What did Jesus want her to do?
4. While this narrative tells of an actual event – the initial appearance of Jesus after His resurrection, it also provides some apt reflections for John's Christian audience years later. Why do you think Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene first – before the disciples, or the other women? What do Mary's actions show about her heart? Jesus called her *by name*, and that 'opened her eyes' to who He was. What does having Jesus 'call you by name' signify? Have you heard Jesus 'call you by name'? Have you responded to Him?