

- I) V11-18 INTRO: But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping and as she wept she

- II) THE LAST WEEK: Of Jesus' ministry was intense and filled with activity
 - a) On Palm Sunday He entered Jerusalem as Messiah
 - b) On Monday, He cleansed the Temple
 - c) On Tuesday He returned to the Temple, and debated the religious leaders

- III) MT 23 RECORDS: How He evaded their traps, and pronounced judgment on them
 - a) They were hypocrites, blind guides, whitewashed tombs, snakes and vipers
 - 1) This was exactly what many people believed concerning them

- IV) HE THEN: Went to the Mt of Olives, and taught His men about the End Times

- V) WEDNESDAY: Has nothing recorded concerning His ministry, and is Silent Wednesday

- VI) ON THURSDAY: Jesus went to the upper room and celebrated Passover
 - a) He gave a long message to His disciples, Jn 13-17 and closed with prayer
 - 1) Judas left to betray Him, and He went to a Garden to pray and await arrest

- VII) ON FRIDAY: Jesus went through the mockery of a religious and then secular trial
 - a) He was abandoned by His men, falsely accused, beaten, spit upon, scourged
 - 1) He carried His cross to the place of execution, and was crucified

- VIII) WHILE ON THE CROSS: He gave seven final statements
 - a) He began with *Father, forgive them* which is called a Word of Mercy
 - 1) *His mercy* toward sinners and His desire for their salvation is shown as He prayed
 - 2) Ezek 33:11 As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live

- IX) HE CONCLUDED: With *Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit*
 - a) This has been called a Word of Trust, as He was committed completely

- X) THESE WORDS: Are taken from Ps 31:5: Into Your hand I commit (entrust) my spirit

a) They were part of the evening prayers for centuries and may have been so for Jesus

XI) **FACT:** What is touching is that Jesus prayed this prayer as He laid His head on the cross

XII) **FACT:** As He was accustomed to pray every night, He prayed now for the last time

a) This prayer was a prayer said at bedtime, as a prayer of trust and dependence

1) Jesus died with a psalm on His lips, as He gently, peacefully and willingly died

2) The cross became His pillow, and He laid His head down and died

I) **MARY MAGDALENE:** Had been at the cross, heard His words, and watched Him die

a) I am sure she noticed that only John and a few women were with her

1) I wonder how she felt and if she wondered where the others were?

II) **SHE SAW JESUS DIE:** And watched as they took His beaten and lifeless body down

a) Perhaps she saw Mary cradle her Son in her arms and felt her heart break

III) **SHE AND:** Other women followed Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to the tomb

SHE: Saw Jesus placed in the tomb, and saw how His body was gently laid in it

SHE: Heard the 4,000 lb stone wheel as it rolled down the incline, sealing the tomb

IV) **FACT:** The stone settling and sealing the tomb made a dull sound

a) When the grave is filled with dirt, there is a sense of finality: *they are dead*

V) **HIS BURIAL:** Was not good enough for Him so she and friends planned to do better

VI) **FACT:** Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had given Jesus a hasty burial (Jn 19:39-40)

a) The spices were not for embalming but provided a perfume to honor and respect Him

VII) **IMPORTANT:** A hundred pounds of aromatic spices was very costly because it was enough to perfume 200 dead bodies

VIII) **EVEN SO:** Mary and her friends believed He deserved more than He had received

a) They wanted to add their gifts to this, in order to give Him more honor

1) Lu 23:55-56 The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment

IX) **AT DAWN:** Mary and some of the other women came to the tomb to complete His burial

a) Lu 24:1 On the first day of the week, *very early in the morning*, they, and certain other women with them came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb

X) **V1 TELLS US:** That Mary saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb

a) The tomb had been sealed, the Pharisees had set a watch over it to prevent a hoax

1) Mt 27:62-66 TELLS US: That they remembered that Jesus said on the third day He would rise from the dead, so they set a guard to prevent someone from stealing the body

2) It is interesting how they remembered this, but Jesus' disciples did not

XI) **MARY'S:** Coming to the tomb reveals to us her tremendous love for Jesus

a) It also shows courage and zeal because it was dangerous for her to do this

I) **FACT:** She is a great example of a thankful sinner who understands God's love and grace

a) She loved Him deeply because she had been loved by Him, deeply

1) 1 Jn 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

II) **V2 MARY:** Ran to tell the apostles, and two of them, Peter and John had come to the tomb

a) Mary and the other women saw the stone was rolled away, and looked in to the tomb

1) Mk 16:5-7 Entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. *He is risen!* He is not here.

See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples--*and Peter*--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

- III) THIS THEY DID: But the majority of the apostles did not believe them
 - a) Lu 24:11 Their words seemed *to them* like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

- IV) V3 TELLS US: Peter therefore went out and the *other disciple* and were going to the tomb
 - a) As is typical, the apostle John leaves himself unnamed
 - 1) In John, he simply refers to himself as the other disciple or the one *Jesus loved*
 - 2) Jn 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20

- V) KEY: It is not the amount of love we have for Him but the amount of love He has for us
 - a) Peter claimed to love Jesus more than everybody else, and denied Him three times
 - 1) John knew that Jesus loved him deeply and came to rest in God's love *for him*
 - 2) 2 Co 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us

- VI) FACT: They both viewed the empty tomb, but they had completely different reactions

- VII) PETER: Only saw *an empty tomb*, but John understood why it was empty

- VIII) KEY: Lu 24:12 says Peter departed *marveling to himself* at what had happened
 - a) Peter was still dealing with the guilt of denying Him and his eyes were still clouded
 - 1) In grace and love, Jesus will soon restore His beloved Apostle

- IX) V11 MARY STOOD: Outside by the tomb, *weeping* and as she wept she stooped down
 - a) Weeping (Strong crying, mourning with pain and grief)
 - 1) Mary truly loved Jesus and was crying as if her heart would break

- X) SHE: Was unwilling to leave the place her precious Lord had been buried in
 - a) She feared that His Body was stolen, and that it would be abused by evil people

1) As she stood there, her mind was filled with all the evil that could be happening

I) **KEY:** Mary loved Jesus with all of her heart, because He had forgiven and restored her

a) She had an incredible salvation experience, and was extremely thankful to Jesus

1) She had been delivered from demonic possession, and became His follower

II) **SHE IS LIKE:** The woman who ministered to Jesus in the home of Simon the Pharisee

a) She washed, kissed, and anointed His feet

III) **KEY:** Jesus tells us what was used to wash His feet

a) Lu 7:44 He turned to the woman and said to Simon Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has *washed My feet with her tears* and wiped them with the hair of her head

IV) **IN HIS DAY:** Women wore tear bottles that were used to collect tears that had been shed

a) Ps 56:8 You number my wanderings; *Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?*

V) **THESE BOTTLES:** Served as reminders of the pain, suffering, and grieving of a lifetime

a) She took these tears, and used them to wash Jesus feet

VI) **WHY:** Because Jesus had healed her broken heart, and had won her love

VII) **KEY:** She was a very sinful woman who had been cleansed by a very loving Savior

a) Lu 7:47 I say to you, her sins, *which are many*, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little.

1) Jesus knew she was sinful, but also completely forgiven, producing love!

VIII) **IF YOU:** Are a Christian every sin you have committed has been completely forgiven

a) This is something we need to accept in order to be set free

1) When you came to faith in Jesus, He completely forgave all of your sins

2) This is what produces newness of life

IX) **THOSE:** Who refuse God's offer of forgiveness remain in bondage to sin and sorrow

a) This is one reason why it is so important to seek God's forgiveness

1) Pr 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

X) **MARY ALSO:** Loved Jesus and was a devoted follower and a genuine Christian disciple

a) His men were not there, but she was not afraid of being associated with Jesus

XI) **KEY:** She knew that faith in Him had resulted in forgiveness and a brand new life

I) **V12 AS SHE:** Looked into the tomb she saw two angels in white sitting one at the head

II) **V13 THEY ASK:** Woman, why are you weeping?

a) **POINT:** Your tears are unnecessary, so why are you crying

1) You should be rejoicing, but here you are sobbing your heart out!

III) **V13 SHE ANSWERS:** They have *taken away* my Lord and I do not know where they had

a) Somebody has removed His body from the tomb, and I don't know where they took it

IV) **THIS:** Is an interesting because she is very much like many today

V) **THE FACT IS:** Jesus is alive, but we order our lives *like He is dead*

VI) **MANY CHRISTIANS:** Live like Jesus did not rise and fail to realize what we have in Him

VII) **KEY:** We have been blessed abundantly in Jesus, because He rose and conquered death

VIII) **THIS:** Is what the Apostle Paul wanted believers everywhere to know

a) Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with *every spiritual blessing* in the heavenly *places* in Christ

- IX) **CHRISTIAN: Listen to what God's word tells us that we have because He is alive**
- a) We are *new creations* in Christ 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - b) We are *redeemed* from the kingdom of darkness Col. 1:13
 - c) We are *overcomers* through the blood and the word of our testimony Rev.

12:11

- d) We are *more than conquerors* through Christ Who Loved us Ro 8:37
- b) We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ Ro 8:17

X) **BECAUSE HE IS ALIVE:**

- a) We have life: He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life 1 Jn 5:12
- b) We have the Light of Life Jn 8:12
- c) We have liberty: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty 2 Cor. 3:17
- d) We have love: The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts Ro 5:5
- e) We have joy: Your joy no man taketh from you Jn 16:22.
- f) We have forgiveness: The blood of Jesus cleanses *from all sin* 1 Jn 1: 7
- g) We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ Ro 5:1
- h) We have power Ac 1:8
- i) We have provision: My God shall supply all of your need Phil. 4:19.
- j) We have heaven: In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a

place for you Jn 14:2

- l) **V14-15 NOW: When she had said this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there**

II) **SHE DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM: For several reasons**

- a) It was *early*, she was emotionally *distressed*, and she was *blinded* by her tears

III) **SHE WAS ALSO: In a state of unbelief and did not expect to see Him alive**

- a) For this reason she was confused

IV) **V15 QUESTION: Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**

- a) Mary, under stress and grief *had forgotten* what Jesus said
 - 1) Mt 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

- V) **KEY:** She was aware of His teaching, but it was not something she could truly grasp
- VI) **V15 SHE:** *Supposing Him to be the gardener*, said to Him Sir if You have carried Him
- VII) **PICTURE OF RELIGION:** A small woman carrying dead body of the teacher
a) Man made religions have disciples that are burdened by a *dead teacher*
- VIII) **KEY:** Christians do not carry around the body of a dead Master
a) We have a living Lord, who loves us, carries *us*, and *delivers us*
1) Is 46:4 Even to *your* old age, I *am* He, And even to gray hairs I will carry *you!* I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver *you*.
- IX) **V16 JESUS SAID TO HER:** *Mary!* She turned and said to Him, Rabboni!
a) She now hears the voice of the Shepherd who *personally* knows her!
1) Jn 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because *they know his voice*.
- X) **V17-18 JESUS SAID TO HER:** Do not cling to Me for I have not yet ascended to My Father
a) A new work is occurring, and I am no longer to be physically present with you
1) Jn 14:16-18 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor *knows* him. But you know him, for he lives *with* you and will be *in you*. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
- XI) **V18 MARY:** Magdalene came and *told the disciples* that she had seen the Lord, and that
a) **FINALLY:** She *testified* of what Jesus had told her
- I) **JESUS CHRIST:** Is the Savior God sent to the world
- II) **KEY:** We were separated from God by sin but Jesus took human flesh and dealt with it
a) Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

b) Ro 10:9-10 if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

III) His birth was an event...His Life only an example...Until His death gave them meaning

And His resurrection gave them power

Of All events that defined the Life of Jesus

A miraculous birth...A Test in the desert...The Sermon on the Mount...The working of miracles The bible commands us to remember only one...His Sacrificial death...Why?

Why are we *not* commanded to celebrate His birth...Or commemorate His miracles
But to remember His death?

In His birth He became Emmanuel ...God with us But in His death He became our Savior...God has saved us And in His Resurrection...God has renewed us

In His birth and life He *revealed* the possible
In His death and resurrection He *made it* possible

It was not enough that He was our Teacher...He had to become our Savior, our Redeemer
He said: It is for your good that I am going away, for unless I go away, the Comforter will not come

Without Easter Sunday...We only see His example
With Easter Sunday...We *become* His example

Without Easter Sunday...we can only be considered good people
With Easter Sunday...we are reborn a holy people

His birth was the incarnation...His life was a revelation...His death was for our salvation
And His resurrection is our restoration

And this is why we celebrate Easter