

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	John 20:11-18
Monday	Mark 16:9-20; Psalm 73:10-17; Proverbs 13:22-25
Tuesday	Mark 9:2-29; Psalm 73:18-28; Proverbs 14:1-2
Wednesday	Mark 9:30-50; Psalm 74:1-6; Proverbs 14:3-5
Thursday	Mark 10:1-31; Psalm 74:7-13; Proverbs 14:6-9
Friday	Mark 10:32-52; Psalm 74:14-23; Proverbs 14:10-12
Saturday	Mark 11:1-26; Psalm 75; Proverbs 14:13-15

DEVOTIONAL: READ JOHN 20:11-18

Mary Magdalene had just witnessed one of the most horrible acts in history at the crucifixion of Jesus. Her emotions and grief must have been unimaginable as she mourned her loss. Yet, in the despair of Jesus' death and the confusion of finding His tomb empty, she was about to be a part of one of the most epic events in history. As she wept by the tomb, Mary became the first person recorded to see the risen Jesus!

She could not see it. She stood in the presence of the risen Jesus and two angels but mistook them for guards and a gardener. She saw the greatest news in history play out in person and yet, for a second, she thought someone had stolen the body rather than realizing the Savior had risen from the grave.

When Jesus revealed Himself to her and she saw Him for who He was, she

clung tightly to Him. Her unimaginable grief and despair had turned to hope and joy! He called her by name and everything changed.

Jesus continues to reveal Himself to us today. While it may look different than the physical appearance to Mary Magdalene, He continues to call us by name and turn our sorrows into joy. Yet, like Mary, we sometimes mistake Jesus and His work for something else. We may see Jesus moving in our lives every single day and choose to attribute His blessings to other sources. Other times, we are so consumed by our circumstances that we completely miss Jesus in the situation. Do not mistake Jesus for a gardener! Seek Jesus and recognize His voice! Like Mary, may we hear Him call our names, cling to Him, and rejoice with others for what Jesus has done.

REFLECTION

How does the fact that Jesus rose from the dead change everything?

How have you seen Jesus move in your life? Be specific and give thanks to God.

How can you help others see how God is working in their lives? Who can you encourage this week?

DISCUSSION

What is something you are excited about in life right now?

PRAYER

Lord, without confidence in the resurrection, I would be left to cry out in grief, ever searching for hope and significance in this broken world. But You have defeated death! Jesus, You actually did rise from the grave and I believe in Your power to give life.

Father, You have seen me in my need, and You have called me by name. By Your great mercy and power, You sent Your Son to conquer sin and death on my behalf and therefore united me with Yourself. In light of the reality of the resurrection, I live in this hope.

Lord, You have turned my grief to joy. Help me to remember that and to live in the joy of knowing You every day. Lead me to celebrate with others that You are my hope and my shield. In You my heart rejoices, for I trust in Your holy name. Let Your unfailing love surround me, for my hope is in You alone. Amen.