

Make the Resurrection Very Personal

- Xp risen; *risen, indd; all!* All, indd! Makes me so happy hear say: All. 7 wks ago on Trnsfg we: frwll to All – joyfl wrd, means praise Lord. Thruout whole ssn/Lent, stoppd using wrd All in hymns/litrgy/pryrs, bec Lent: time/solemn reflctn. But Easter: time for joyful celbrtn, bec we know/bel that: Xp risen; *risen, indd; all!* All; praise Lord!
- Praise LJ for rising fr dead! That's why here today: worship risen LJ w/thnks/praise as celebrt his res! And man, got up pretty early do it! It's early, isn't it?! We don't come ch at 6/morn very often. But we do on East, bec **vs. 1**. It was very early in morn when: J rose fr dead; and MM found tmb empty. So what better time/place to praise risen Lord, than here in ch, in early hrs of res morning.
- All 4 Goss record res acnt, of course. But each Gos gives diff details & has a diff emphss. Mt emphs pwr/res: violent earthqk; angel rolled stone away; **“apprnc like lghtnng” (28:3)**; Rom guards actly faintd – pwr! Mk's acnt: shrt & to pnt. Lk emphs how long took for evone bel. Going hear fr Lk's Gos in 9:30 service how: women found tmb empty, didn't undrstnd; so told discs, but thght wrds nonsense; then Pt ran tmb, still didn't bel. And later, on road/Emms, J: **“How foolish you are & how slow bel all that prophts've spkn” (24:25)**; and that night when J appr'd, thght ghost. So Lk's emphasizes: how long took for evone bel. But Jn's Gos is diff. Jn makes res very persnl; stirs emtns & tchs hrt. Today we see how J's res tchd hrt of MM, persnly & emtnly. And today I want J's res tch your hrt same way: persnly & emtnly. This blessed East sunrise, I invite/encrg you: make res/J very persnl.
- **Vs. 1-2**. Her hrt just brkn! She'd just witnssd violnt tortr/exctn/Lord – she: right there at cross; saw whole grusm thng; probly cldn't sleep at night or get image out mind. And now all wants do: see one last time & give proper burial. But when gets tmb, body's gone; all can think: those cruel ppl who killed him have now robbed his grave! Mary's hrt is just brkn!
- What you going thru in your life right now that brks/hrt? What stresses you out or brings you dwn? I suppose it's pssbl that evthng in your life right now: hunky-dory; riding high, loving life. But smthng I've learned over yrs is this: evone: strggling w/smthng; fighting sm battle; has some prob dealing with, sm hrtach weighing them dwn. Evone! Maybe not at ev moment. But we all have: our strggls & hrtachs; trbls that affect us very persnly. So I think we all can relate to MM.
- But think re this: what if Mary had actly found what looking for? What if she went tmb & actly found dead bdy/J lying there? That'd be real hrtbrk! That'd mean J: broke prom; nvr rose; is not God and cld not forgive sins, give peace, bring hvn. That'd mean: Gos is hoax, J charlatan, Xianity lie. Remem Paul: **“If Xp has not been raised, your faith futile; still in sins” (1 Cor 15:17)**. If Mary'd actly found J dead in tomb, then she'd really have reason be hrtbrkn. And so would we, bec we wld've belvd in Sav who cldn't save & Rdmr who didn't redeem.
- But: *Xp risen; risen indd; all!* And that fact isn't just pwrfl; also persnl. When you, like Mary, are feeling hrtbrkn, stressd out, weighd dwn, weary/burdnd, J makes his res very persnl for you. That's what did for Mary. **Vs. 11-12** – to reassure Mary/us that what'd hapnd: not robbry but res. **Vs. 13a** (hear that qstn again in just sec); **vs. 13b** (hear anguish!). But then: **vs. 14-15a/crying**. And not like J didn't know! But asked (& had angels ask) to help Mary make res very persnl. J'd not left her or let her dwn; J kept wrd & rose fr dead, for her, indvly, persnly! **Why crying?** – that's a very persnl qstn that tchd her brkn hrt. It took her a sec: “gardnr; where put him; I'll get.” But for rest/life, in ev diffclt situation she'd face in life, she'd be able look back on that exchnng & say: “Why am I crying? I have no reason: cry or be sad. My J: risen/dead. He loves me, saved, forgvs, always with, lives for me! And smday he'll raise me fr dead & bring me be w/him frvr!” Mary made res very persnl!

- Dear Xians, I hope you'd do same. Whnvr you're feeling hrtbrkn, hear J ask, **"Why crying?"** Hear Bk Pss ask: **"Why you dwncest, O my soul? Why so distrbd w/in me?" (42:5, NIV84).** It's not like J dsn't know what brks your hrt & brings you dwn. But what does he do? Stands beside his empty tmb & says: "I know what you're going thru. But don't lose hrt. I'm: here, not in there; alive, not dead; with you, not gone! You nvr have feel abndnd, alone, or hrtbrkn ever again! My res means: **'Nthr dth/life, nthr angls/dmns, nthr prsnt/futr, nor any pwrs, nthr hght/dpth, nor anthng else in all crtn'll be able seprt [you] fr love/God that is in [me,] CJ [your] Lord' (Rom 8:38-39).**"
- And while that East Gos is true for all Xians all ovr wrld, today I want you make res very persnl. J lookd at her & calld her by name: **"Mary."** Today J looks at you & calls you by name: **"_____."** You: not just a nameless face in sea/Xians to J. J calls you by name, & calls on you to make his res very persnl. Whtvr strggls you're facing, battles fightng, probs dealng with, hrtachs weigh you dwn – res/J is answr to them all. Res guarantees: they temprry, will pass away, and J'll be w/you until they do. Res guarantees: God loves you persnly & will smday raise you from dth to life. **"Why crying? Why dwncest, O my soul? Why so distrbd w/in me?"** J is alive! He's here w/you, and he always will be.
- So can you see? Res is very persnl! This East morn, in early hrs/day, while sun still rising, and wrld arnd us is just waking up, take momnt & take in the res for your own hrt. Stand outside tmb; hear J call you by name; and be at peace. J rose for you, persnly. Make J's res very personal.

John 20:1-2, 10-16

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

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

¹³They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

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."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.