

Series: Believing and Living; *Sermon:* **Why Are You Weeping?**

Delivered by: **Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* April 4, 2021

Bible text explored: John 20:11-18

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “*Rabboni!*” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Why (*verse 11*) had Mary Magdalene come early on Sunday to the tomb?
(See *Luke 23:55-24:1*)
Why was she crying? (See *Luke 24:2-3a*)
What frustrations have caused you to weep this year?
2. What “bookend” figures did she see (*verse 12*) when she entered the opened crypt?
Why did seeing them where Jesus’ corpse had been placed not necessarily lead to believing? (See *John 20:1-8*)
How did the mixed reactions establish that no “wish fulfillment” was involved here?
3. With what intent (*verse 13*) did Mary answer the question posed by the messengers robed in white?
What motivated her determination to honor her slain rabbi? (See *Luke 8:1-3*)
4. The resurrected Jesus repeated the messengers’ question (*verses 14-15a*), but also asked who she was really looking for. On what (*verse 15b*) did her response focus?
5. How did the way Jesus said her name (*verse 16a*) bring instant recognition?
(See also *John 10:3, 11, 17-18*)
And how was Mary’s exclamation, *Rabboni*, a personalized expression of joy?
6. What indications do we have (*verse 17a*) that Jesus’ resurrection body was somehow different? (See also, *Luke 24:30-31; John 21:4, 7, 12*)
What post-resurrection going-and-telling tasks (*verses 17b-18*) did Mary tackle?
How do these also apply to us until the Second Coming?
7. How can my celebration of the Resurrection move from head knowledge to heart feeling by . . .
 - . . . revitalizing my hope? (See *Revelation 21:4, 7*)
 - . . . emboldening me with resurrection power? (See *Acts 1:8*)
 - . . . internalizing a deep sense of joy? (See *John 16:22*)
 - . . . responding with my own “*Rabboni*” to the Good Shepherd who calls me by name?