

Sermon Discussion Questions

“FROM TEARS TO TRIUMPH”

Discuss

“Death used to be an executioner.

Now it’s just a gardener.” *George Herbert (1593-1633)*

“You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” *Ps. 16:11 (ESV)*

- 1) There was clearly a great deal of confusion that first Easter morning.
 - Was the confusion of Mary Magdalene and the disciples wrong? Misguided? Understandable?
 - When we are confused by difficult situations we find ourselves in, how can we cast confusion aside? What can we turn to in God’s Word to bring clarity? What do we have that the disciples and Mary did not possess?
- 2) In his sermon, Brian quotes Wendell Berry on the subject of grief. “Everywhere you go, the grief seems to pound you.” There is, in other words, no place of escape—no place that you can go where the grief does not exist.
 - What details does John share that make clear how great and deep Mary’s grief was?
 - From the details we are told in this part of John, what do you think Mary was grieving more than anything else? Would you say that she wanted something that Jesus could *do* (she knew Jesus’ power—see Luke 8:2), and/or did she just want him—to be near and with him again?
 - If we are honest, what do we want the most from Jesus?
- 3) Does Mary’s relationship with Jesus and her obvious love for him surprise you? Explain.
 - Do we love Jesus the way that she did? If yes, what has enabled you to love Jesus that way? If no, why not?
 - What did she need to be gently reminded of that we perhaps need to remind ourselves of as well? (See v. 17)
- 4) What details make this account of Jesus’ resurrection have such a remarkable ring of truth?

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

– Fanny J. Crosby, 1873



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DATE: April 12, 2020

SPEAKER: Brian

SERIES: The Cross and
the Resurrection

PASSAGE: John 20:1-18

Pray

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” *Matt. 5:4*

As we celebrate this Easter, dear Lord, in the midst of the social isolation caused by Covid-19, we are more deeply thankful than ever to know that you are our Comforter. On the day of your Resurrection, you transformed Mary’s weeping into joy, and we know that you will comfort us as well when we sorrow. Remind us daily of the good news that she received on that Resurrection Day—that you were not defeated by death but rose in triumph. Teach us to bring our cares to you with loving confidence that you will never turn away from us nor fail to listen. You are the great God who never slumbers nor sleeps. Strengthen us when we grow weary; straighten our steps when we wander; guide us when we feel lost. We rejoice that we serve a risen Savior! In your matchless name we pray. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

East Lake Expression Engine

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Dal and Beth Stanton serving
with MTW in Bulgaria