

## THE IMPACT OF THE RESURRECTION

### INTRODUCTION

How many Easter Sermons have you heard? Most of us cannot remember because they did not have an impact on us. However, that is not how people responded to the first Easter Sunday in the Bible. It turned their whole world upside down because Jesus had resurrected and the thought of it changed everything for them which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at “3 Reports of the Resurrection that Should Impact Our Lives Today.”

#### 1). The Report of Mary (verses 1-2).

Verse 1 says that “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb.” John 19:25 tells us that a few days before this she was watching Jesus die on the cross. Now she went to His grave in order to pay her respects. However, when Mary arrived she saw that the stone had been rolled away so she fled because she did not believe that Jesus had resurrected yet. On the contrary, she was under the impression that “they have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him” (verse 2).

Discussion Question A: Do people still struggle with the resurrection and the thought of dying today? How so?

Discussion Question B: How does Mary’s story provide encouragement for them? Was Jesus’ resurrection a lot for her to process?

## **2). The Report of Peter and John (verses 3-10).**

After Mary fled from the empty tomb, she found Peter and John and told them what she had just witnessed. Their reaction was different from hers because they did not run away from the tomb. They ran to it instead and went inside. Once they arrived, verses 6-8 says, “[They] saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself ... and [John] saw and believed.”

Discussion Question A: Explain this passage in your own words. What does it mean when it says that “John saw and believed?”

Discussion Question B: What was John’s belief based on and what should our belief in the resurrection be based on today (hint: the 13 post resurrection appearances of Jesus)?

## **3). The Second Report of Mary (verses 11-18).**

Once Peter and John left the tomb, Mary came back and went into the tomb all by herself. At which point, verses 12-13 says, “she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’” When she had finished speaking, she turned and thought that she saw the gardener. However, it was Jesus who said one word to her “Mary” and she recognized Him.

Discussion Question A: Why did Mary recognize Jesus so quickly after He called her by name? Did she recognize Him before that? Why / Why not?

Discussion Question B: How did this conversation alter her mood and how did it go on to alter the lives of the disciples? How should it affect people’s lives today?