



Next is Now - When the Dark is not the End

Pastor James Heyward

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SEE THE SUN YET FOR GOD TO START SOMETHING NEW.

- When it Looks Over

“Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath. ‘They took the Master from the tomb. We don’t know where they’ve put him.’” John 20:1-2 (MSG)

1. What do you think Mary expected to find at the tomb?

2. What was Mary’s reaction?

3. What would your reaction be in this situation - if something you expected was totally turned around?

- Confusion Becomes Belief

“Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.” John 20:3-10 (MSG)

4. Why do you think ‘the other disciple’, hesitated to enter the tomb?

5. What did the evidence found in the tomb tell them?

6. What would be your first thought when you saw the empty tomb?

NEXT IS NOW WHEN THE RISEN JESUS CALLS YOUR NAME.

- Called Now by Name

“But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus’ body had been laid. They said to her, ‘Woman, why do you weep?’ ‘They took my Master,’” she said, ‘and I don’t know where they put him.’ After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t recognize him.

*Jesus spoke to her, ‘Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?’ She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, ‘Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him.’ **Jesus said, ‘Mary.’***

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, ‘Rabboni!’ meaning ‘Teacher!’ Jesus said, ‘Don’t cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.’ Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: ‘I saw the Master!’ And she told them everything he said to her.” John 20:11-18 (MSG)

7. When Jesus said Mary’s name, what changed?

8. Have you heard Jesus call your name? What changed for you?

THE RESURRECTION IS NOT JUST JESUS’ PAST; IT IS THE POWER IN YOUR PRESENT.

- Jesus Has Called Your Name - Your Next is Now

1. Trust Jesus (salvation)
2. Go Public (baptism and community)
3. Change The Pattern (habit/obedience)