

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of April 5, 2026 by Andrew Royer

Encountering the Risen Christ

Day 1: Standing in the "Not Supposed to Be"

Reading: John 20:1-10

Devotional: Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark, carrying grief and confusion. She represents all of us who've thought, "This isn't how it was supposed to be." Like Mary, we often find ourselves in spaces where our plans have crumbled, our expectations have shattered, and our hopes seem buried. Yet even in that dark morning, resurrection was already happening—she just couldn't see it yet. Today, acknowledge the places in your life that feel broken or unfinished. Don't rush past the grief. Jesus meets us in these exact spaces, not after we've figured everything out. What are you carrying that feels like "this isn't the way it was supposed to be"? Bring it honestly before God, knowing He already sees you there.

Day 2: The Space Between Promise and Sight

Reading: John 20:11-13

Devotional: Mary stood outside the tomb weeping, even after seeing angels. She was in that difficult space between what God was doing and what she could see—between resurrection being real and experiencing it. We know this space well: we pray, we believe, yet nothing seems to change. The tomb is empty, but our grief remains. This is the tension of faith. God's work doesn't always announce itself immediately. Sometimes we're standing right in the middle of what God is doing and it still feels like nothing has changed. Today, resist the urge to manufacture feelings or force understanding. Instead, practice staying present—even in the tears, even in the confusion. God is not absent in the waiting; He's preparing you for recognition.

Day 3: Jesus Speaks Your Name

Reading: John 20:14-16

Devotional: Mary saw Jesus but didn't recognize Him until He spoke her name. Not "woman," not "follower"—her name. In that single word, everything changed. Jesus doesn't address us generically; He knows our whole story, every detail, every wound, every hope. He calls you by name today—not the name others have given you, not the labels you've accepted, but the name

He knows. The voice that created you, that pursued you, that died for you now calls you personally. This is how resurrection becomes real: not through understanding everything, but through recognizing the One who knows everything about you and loves you still. Listen today. In the noise and confusion of life, can you hear Him calling your name? Stop trying to figure everything out and simply respond to His voice.

Day 4: From Grief to Gospel

Reading: John 20:17-18

Devotional: Jesus didn't leave Mary in her moment of recognition; He sent her with a message: "Go and tell." The one who came grieving became the first evangelist of resurrection. This is the pattern of grace—Jesus meets us in our brokenness, calls us by name, then sends us as witnesses. You don't need everything figured out to share what Jesus has done. Mary didn't have a theology degree or perfect understanding; she simply said, "I have seen the Lord." Your testimony isn't about having all the answers; it's about encountering the risen Christ and responding. Who in your life needs to hear that death doesn't have the final word? What broken place in your story could become your message? Let Jesus transform your grief into gospel, your confusion into testimony.

Day 5: Living Resurrection

Reading: Romans 6:4-11

Devotional: Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can walk in newness of life. Resurrection isn't just something that happened to Jesus; it's something that happens in us. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to you today—for the relationship that feels dead, the hope that's been buried, the pattern you thought you'd never break. This doesn't mean everything instantly changes, but it means nothing is beyond redemption. What feels final isn't final. What seems hopeless isn't hopeless. Today, identify one area where you need resurrection power. Maybe it's forgiving someone, breaking a destructive habit, or hoping again after disappointment. Bring it to Jesus, not as a problem to solve alone, but as an opportunity to experience His resurrection life. He is alive, and because He lives, you can face tomorrow.