



## RISEN LORD

John 20:1-18 | Ryan Pfeiffer | March 31, 2024

No one really expects Jesus to rise...

- Jesus predicted he'd rise 3X's... raised others, walked on water, etc
- When Mary & others get to the empty tomb... assume the worst... stolen!
- In other accounts when women tell the men... they don't believe!

Here's what I'm saying... Resurrection Morning begins in the DARK... literally.

1. 1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was STILL DARK...

John emphasizes the dark for a reason- listen to how he begins his gospel:

- John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

FOCUS. Ok John... What is this darkness and how does the light overcome it?

DARKNESS. 13 "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

1) There are 2 kinds of darkness...

1) the darkness outside in the world

- The injustice of Jesus' death... He was falsely accused...
- Hopes and dreams of a better world... crucified on a cross..
- Triumph of corrupt religious leaders and Roman power...

2) Then there's the darkness inside of us... she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

The darkness on the inside is when we lose sight of God in our life...

When we can't see where God is... What He is doing... doubt his nearness...

Psalm 88: I am overwhelmed with troubles... darkness is my closest friend.

We ask questions... where is God? Where is justice? Where is the light?

THE LIGHT. 15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

World. v15 "Thinking he was a Gardner..." Why a gardener?

John 19:41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb...

There's a poetic justice to Jesus' resurrection happening in a garden!



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**Acts 17:31** For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.

Jesus resurrection is God's promise/ proof to renew and heal the world.

To turn graves into gardens... weeping to wonder... death to life

Mary. **16** Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned to him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!'

This has to be the most spectacular moment in all the Bible... ALL History!

The moment the light of Jesus' resurrection first breaks through...

He doesn't do it in a spectacular way... he simply speaks her name.

**John 10:3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Jesus has overcome the darkness in the world and in our lives through his sacrificial love.

**John 10:** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

### RESPONSE.

It was an act of self-centeredness that let the darkness into our world.

And it was an act of self-sacrificing love that has overcome the darkness.

**John 5:24** "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

When you begin to believe that Jesus' death and resurrection overcomes the darkness... that light begins to fill you and shine through you...

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6.