



The Unfamiliar

John 20:11-18 (ESV)

September 6, 2020

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you

seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

Introduction:

1) The Familiar Call

“[Mary] had experienced deep trauma; her eyes had filled with tears; it was still dark; she was very confused. But perhaps most important, she had not considered the resurrection a possibility. So, the idea that she might be talking to a living Christ never occurred to her. She was looking for a body; she did not expect a resurrection.”

Kenneth O. Gangel, John, vol. 4, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 369–370.

2) The Familiar Life

“Mary is trying to hold on to the joy she now discovers in her resurrected Lord. She is thinking that the resurrection of Jesus is Jesus’ resumption of normal relations with his disciples. In telling her not to hold on, Jesus is saying that his permanent “return” and presence must come in another form. Jesus’ correction is a spiritual redirection away from his physical presence, a preparation for the Spirit that is about to be given.”

Gary M. Burge, “Gospel of John,” in *John’s Gospel, Hebrews–Revelation*, ed. Craig A. Evans and Craig A. Bubeck, First Edition, *The Bible Knowledge Background Commentary* (Colorado Springs, CO; Paris, ON; Eastbourne: David C Cook, 2005), 156.

3) The Unfamiliar Reality

“The normal the church is longing for just isn’t coming back. We keep seeking the old normal rather than asking “what does God want us to do in this season?” When our grandchildren ask us, “what did you do in the coronavirus? And all we can tell them is the list of shows we watched on Netflix, that’s not our best story.” - Pastor Jon Tyson