

TEARS ON EASTER MORNING

John 20:11-18

INTRODUCTION:

A. Easter is a day to rejoice

1. Christ arose! He is Lord!

Romans 1:4

and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. NKJV

2. Christ arose! Our Salvation is Sure

1 Corinthians 15:17-20

And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. NKJV

3. Christ arose! We shall rise also

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. NKJV

B. But on that first Easter morning Mary Magdalene Was Weeping v. 11

1. Why tears on this day of triumph?
2. Mary's tears and how Jesus dried them.

C. Mary's Journey from Sorrow to Service

I. MARY'S DEPRESSION v. 11-13

- A. Mary went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus
- B. When she arrived, the tomb was empty and Jesus was not there
- C. She had expected the worst
 1. She had come to do the work of an undertaker
 2. Her spices for anointing show her pessimism
 3. Now her discovery seems to confirm her doubts
- D. many, like Mary, are defeated by their doubts

1. Did a dark cloud follow you into the service?
 2. Are you filled with anxiety?
 3. Do you believe in Christ but doubt His power?
- E. Angels question Mary: “Why weepest thou?” Why indeed?
1. Mary doubted the Lord’s promise
 2. Mary doubted the Lord’s power
 3. Mary doubted the Lord’s presence.
- F. Mary’s tears were needless. Christ had arisen!
1. Are you worrying over things that will not happen?
 2. Trade your fears for faith and rest in the risen Christ

II. MARY’S DEVOTION V. 14-16

- A. Mary may have felt the cross and the loss more than others
1. She had been delivered from seven devils

Mark 16:9

Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. NKJV

2. Seven shows she had been completely under their power
 3. Christ had set her free!
- B. The Lord’s question: “Woman, why weepest thou?”
- C. Mary turns and see Jesus but does not recognize Him
- D. Sometimes deep emotion blinds us to the presence of Jesus
1. Deep depression: so sad we do not see Him.
 2. Deep anger: so mad we do not see Him
 3. Deep joy: so glad we do not see Him
- E. They have taken away my Lord.
1. If this had been true, tears would have been timely
 2. But no one can do this

John 10:28-30

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." NKJV

- F. Jesus speaks: “Mary.” Mary responds: “Master.”

III. MARY'S DIRECTION v. 17-18

- A. Go to my brethren - 1st time addressed as brethren
- B. Mary is given a mission to carry out for Jesus

- C. Life is good when we give ourselves to the work of Christ

CONCLUSION:

- A. Invitation to Discouraged People to come to Jesus
- B. He's Alive! Trust Him and move from tears to Triumph.