

Some notes from "Hope of Easter" DYM - improvised for CC Students

## Slide - Palm Sunday

### 2nd slide - donkey/palm/clothes

#### **Key Texts:**

John 20:1-18; Romans 10:9-10

#### **Key Challenge:**

If a resurrected Jesus means that when all seems hopeless, there is hope, what can you do to share your hope with others?

ON Sunday night we talked about "last words" - Last words of Jesus

#### ***\*\*final thoughts slide\*\****

- *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*
- *Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.*
- *Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.*
- *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?*
- *I thirst.*
- *It is finished.*
- *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

*What about First Words?*

#### ***\*\*first words slide\*\****

*What do you think Jesus said - His first words after His resurrection?*

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" John 20:1-2 (NIV).*

Mary Magdalene has just had the worst 72 hours of her life.

One week before she had watched Jesus enter the city of Jerusalem with the fanfare and excitement that would typically only accompany a coronation.

But late in the week something had gone horribly wrong. The crowds that loved Him on Sunday had turned on Him. She saw Him beaten and executed.

And then to make things worse, she and His other followers weren't permitted to give Him a proper burial. All Friday night and all day Saturday she could think of nothing but giving Him the simple honor of a proper burial.

She woke before there was any light in the sky. She had no alarm clock, so this probably means that she spent a sleepless night just waiting until the Sabbath was over at sunrise.

When she arrived at the tomb, she saw the stone had been rolled away and there was no body inside. And her first reaction was likely, "Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse. Just when I thought I had gone through everything I could possibly go through, someone has stolen Jesus' body."

So she went to get Peter and John, most likely from the upper room where the disciples were still staying.

*So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. John 20:3-10 (NIV).*

Mary arrived back at the tomb, and the two people that Mary expected to empathize with her more than anyone else on the planet, were leaving.

They somehow seemed happy about this,

Mary didn't understand. She was exhausted physically; she was going on no sleep and had already walked in the pre-dawn hours from where she was staying in Jerusalem to the tomb, and then had run from the tomb to the upper room (she was not wearing Nike running gear. She has probably slipped and tripped).

She was exhausted mentally, the One she put her faith in had been executed in front of her, she had not been able to say goodbye properly, it appeared that His body has been stolen, and the people that she expected to understand what she is going through had left her there. She was exhausted emotionally, and she just lost it.

*Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." John 20:11-13 (NIV).*

The word for crying we read in verse 12 is the same word used throughout the New Testament for wailing. This is not a little snuffle. She was beyond distraught. She was inconsolable.

She did not even realize she was talking to angels.

*At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. John 20:14 (NIV).*

We don't know why, but she didn't recognize Him. Maybe it was still too dark. Maybe her eyesight was so clouded by tears.

She saw Jesus behind her, and then turned right back to the tomb, convinced that someone has stolen Jesus' body.

What do you think that Jesus thought?

He saw this person He loved. He saw this one who He had healed of demon possession, and who had followed Him so faithfully, and who had completely lost hope. He saw this woman in a broken state because she had lost her best friend. Her world was upside down and now the body of her best friend is missing.

He was probably smiling because He knew in a few minutes, with just a few simple words, her hope would be restored.

A hope for an eternal life in an eternal kingdom with an eternal peace.

*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." John 20:15 (NIV).*

Do you know why she thought He was the gardener?

It was because she didn't expect to see Him.

She didn't expect a resurrection.

She didn't expect to ever have hope again.

She was hopeless!!

*Jesus said to her, "Mary."*

*She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").*

*Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" John 20:16-17(NIV).*

Jesus said, "I know you've already been to the city and back twice today, but I need you to go again. This time you aren't going to tell the disciples (MY BROTHERS) that the tomb is empty; you are going to tell them I am alive, and you've seen me!"

This is the same woman who just minutes ago was wailing and hopeless. Now she is going to take the message of Hope to everyone else!! Her hope was renewed because of Jesus!

You see, a resurrected Jesus changes everything.

~A resurrected Jesus means that even when life seems to be at it's worst, that God is still working.

~A resurrected Jesus means that all of that stuff He said about God hearing our prayers is true.

~A resurrected Jesus means that all of the things He said about living with eternity in mind and not just for the present is a life worth living.

~A resurrected Jesus means that when all seems hopeless, there is hope.

Think about that for a second. The absolute best that Mary Magdalene hoped for on Easter morning, the best possible scenario she could have imagined, was the opportunity to clean dried blood off of a corpse, but a resurrected Jesus meant that she got more than she could have ever hoped for.

Paul says in Romans - *Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)* "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

*\*\*flip through hope slides\*\**

Do you have hope this morning?

Do you have the hope of peace?

Do you have purpose in this life?

Do you have the promise of eternity with Him in the next life?

When we put our faith in Him, a resurrected Jesus means that there is hope - no matter what happens.

This is what we are celebrating today. Palm Sunday.

Baptism. Communion.

We celebrate Hope in Him today.

Come to the alter to pray. Feeling hopeless? Feel like life is a mess?

Feeling empty?

Feeling thankful? Feeling full of Joy? Come and praise Him.

We have Hope because of His death and His resurrection!

**\*\*last slide - hand\*\***

Won't you accept Him? Do you have hope today because of Jesus? Would you like to know what true Hope really is? Come to the altar and pray to Him and see Him for Hope!!

**\*\*play "O Come To The Altar"**