

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LORD?

John 20:1-18

I. WHAT CAN'T WE SEE?

- A. *They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. (John 20:13-14)*
- B. Who Do People Come to Church?
1. "People come to church asking the question: Is it true?" (Barth)
 2. "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." (John 12:21)
- C. We Are Blinded By Our Pain.
1. "Dying is easy, it's living that scares me to death." (Annie Lennox)
 2. This was a watershed moment after which life was never the same.
 3. What's your watershed moment?
The day your marriage died?
The day you were fired?
The day the tornado took your house?
The day you ...
- D. We Are Looking in the Wrong Direction.
1. We focus on our loss – our defeat.
 2. As long as we are preoccupied with our failure, we will not know victory.

II. WHAT'S THE POINT OF BELIEVING?

- A. *Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher) ... Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord." (John 20:16&18)*
- B. Faith Will Change the Way We Think.
1. When we believe that Jesus is the Christ and that he will be with us always, it will change our perception of life.
 2. "Faith is only as good as its object." (Howard Hendrix)
- C. Faith Will Change the Way We Act.
1. Faith-filled people get things done.
 2. Don't be satisfied with life in the shallows.
 3. "There is something you will never be without this Christ." (Roy Blakeburn)
- D. Faith Will Change Our World.
1. The church was built by faith and not by doubt.
 2. "The watershed question for many people in many congregations is: Do you believe that your best years are behind you, or do you believe that your best years are ahead of you?" (Kennon L. Callahan)
 3. Walk to the edge of the light!

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Dolores Dedmon, Kathryn Etheridge, Patty Gibson, Jim Green, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Violet Stout, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – Clara Garrett, Margaret Gauldin, Benette Hobday, Debra Holt, Roy Johnson, Lawrence Lusk, Shirley Rice, David Smith, Newborn grandsons of Anna & Jimmy Moody ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty God, on this glorious Easter Sunday morning we celebrate your gift of life. You have shattered the darkness of Calvary and you have chased away the shadows of sin and death. Now we know that nothing can separate us from your love.

In the midst of our celebration and joy, we also ask your forgiveness. We may be quick to hail the power of Jesus' name, but we are slow to spread our trophies at his feet. We are as apt to expect him to crown us with many crowns as we are to crown him King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has opened our minds that we may understand the Scriptures, but we have hardened our hearts against his interpretation of them. He has taken the role of the suffering servant, but our faith becomes skeptical when "bad" things happen to "good" people.

O Light of the world, illumine our hearts, that we might feel your compassion; illumine our minds, that we might discern your will; and illumine our path, that we might carry your mission to the ends of the earth. This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

JOHN 20:1-18

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Whom do you seek?" 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-boni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

April 15 *Easter Reflections and Anthems* Chancel Choir Concert
10:40 a.m. worship only

On the Radio (1450 AM):

April 15 *The Ten Commandments: God First* Exodus 20:1-7