Encountering the Risen Christ: Lessons from Mary Magdalene



Explore Mary Magdalene's personal encounter with the risen Jesus and discover how Christ transforms our despair into hope.





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Introduction

The Gospels uniquely reveal Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, central to Christian faith. Among these heart-stirring stories, Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Jesus in John 20:11–18 stands out as deeply personal and profoundly transformative. This moment captures not only the power of the resurrection but also reminds us that the risen Christ meets each of us personally and loves us intimately.

Mary arrives at the tomb in grief, confusion, and despair, only to discover an empty tomb and the presence of angels. Yet, what she longs for is Jesus Himself. Her weeping reveals the depth of her love and loss. Suddenly, Jesus appears—though at first she does not recognize Him. When He calls her by name, "Mary," everything changes. In that one word, her sorrow turns into joy, confusion into faith, loss into discovery.

This encounter is a beautiful illustration of how Jesus meets us in our darkest moments. Like Mary, we may experience feelings of abandonment, sorrow, or uncertainty. Yet the risen Jesus calls us personally, inviting us into hope and a renewed purpose. Through this study, let us walk with Mary, learn from her faith, and open our hearts to the living Christ, who calls each of us just as truly by name.

Over the next seven days, we will explore the significance of the resurrection, the nature of Jesus' appearances after He rose, and what it means to be a







witness to His victory over death. Prepare to be encouraged, challenged, and inspired in your own journey of faith as you encounter Jesus anew.

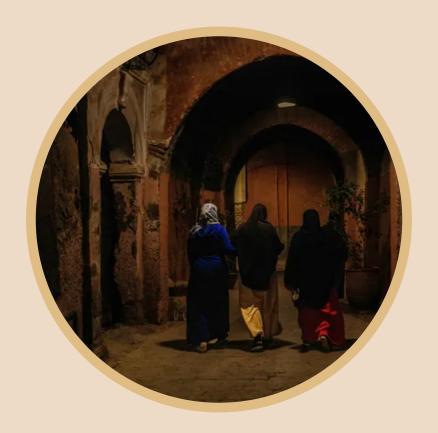








Day 1: Grief at the Empty Tomb









Day 1: 🙆 Grief at the Empty Tomb

Your Verse

John 20:11 - 'Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 34:18 'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.'
- Matthew 28:1–2 'After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.'







Day 1: 🕰 Grief at the Empty Tomb

Devotional: Finding Hope in Grief and Loss

Mary's grief is palpable as she stands outside the tomb, overwhelmed by sorrow and loss. The darkness in her heart mirrors the dark morning as she mourns the death of Jesus. This moment brings to light the very human side of faith—grappling with pain and confusion. Yet, even in her tears, there is hope. The empty tomb is the first sign that death does not have the final word.

In our own lives, grief can be overwhelming. We face disappointments, loss, and moments where hope seems lost. But God is close to the brokenhearted. Like Mary, we are invited to bring our pain to Him, knowing He watches over us with compassion.

Today, reflect on your own moments of grief or despair. How does knowing that Jesus is near in your sorrow change your outlook? Remember, the resurrection story begins precisely where grief meets hope.







Day 1: 🙆 Grief at the Empty Tomb

Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you relate personally to Mary's sorrow at the empty tomb?
2.	What emotions arise when you think of Jesus' absence in difficult times?
3.	In what ways has God comforted you during moments of grief?







Day 1: 🙆 Grief at the Empty Tomb

Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe a time when you felt similar grief like Mary at the tomb.
2.	Write a prayer asking Jesus to meet you in your own sorrow.
3.	Reflect on what hope means to you today amid challenges.







Day 1: 🕰 Grief at the Empty Tomb

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, in my moments of sorrow and uncertainty, help me to sense Your presence near. Like Mary, teach me to bring my grief to You honestly and to trust that You are working even when I don't see. Strengthen my hope and renew my faith in Your resurrection power. May I find peace in knowing You have overcome death and offer me new life. *Thank You for being close to the brokenhearted.*

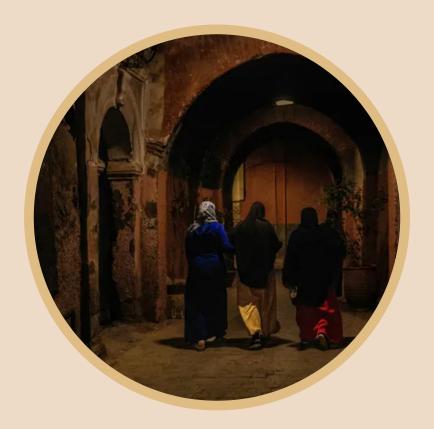


















Day 2: Seeing Beyond the Surface

Your Verse

John 20:14 – 'At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.'

Supporting Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 'For we live by faith, not by sight.'
- Luke 24:16 'But they were kept from recognizing him.'







Day 2: Seeing Beyond the Surface

Devotional: Trusting Faith Beyond What We See

Mary's initial inability to recognize Jesus after the resurrection speaks volumes. Sometimes, our spiritual eyes are dimmed by grief, confusion, or fear. Jesus may be right beside us, yet we fail to see Him clearly. This can happen when we are overwhelmed or focused on what is lost rather than what is risen.

It reminds us that **faith is not just about what we see** but trusting in what Jesus has promised. The physical appearance of Jesus after His resurrection also teaches us that the reality of Jesus is deeper than outward appearances. His presence and work transcend the visible.

Today, ask yourself where you might be missing Jesus' presence. Are there times you wanted clarity or signs so badly that you overlooked His quiet working around you? Let this be a moment to renew your faith by trusting Him even when you don't see everything clearly.







Day 2: Seeing Beyond the Surface

Reflect and Apply

1.	In what ways do you struggle to 'see' Jesus in your daily life?
2.	How can faith help you trust God in times of uncertainty?
3.	Are there areas where you need to open your eyes to God's presence?







Day 2: Seeing Beyond the Surface

Journaling Prompts

	Write about a moment when you didn't recognize God's work immediately.
2.	List ways God has shown up unexpectedly in your life.
3.	Journal about areas where you want to grow in faith beyond sight.







Day 2: Seeing Beyond the Surface

Prayer for Today

Jesus, sometimes my eyes fail to see You clearly, especially amid confusion and pain. Help me to trust You even when I cannot fully understand or recognize Your presence. Strengthen my faith to walk confidently, knowing You are with me always, even in the unseen ways. Open my spiritual eyes and heart today. *Thank You for never leaving me.*

















Your Verse

John 20:16 - 'Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).'

Supporting Scriptures

- Revelation 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.'
- Isaiah 43:1 'I have called you by name; you are mine.'







Devotional: The Power of Jesus Calling Our Name

When Jesus calls Mary by name, her entire world shifts. It is a deeply personal moment—a reminder that God knows us intimately and loves us individually. In a crowd or in solitude, His call is distinct, tender, and life-giving.

This moment encourages us that no matter who we are or what we face, Jesus knows us by name. He desires a relational connection rather than mere acquaintance. The resurrection is not only a victory over death but also an invitation into a renewed personal relationship.

Take time to sit quietly today and listen for Jesus calling your name. Experience the comfort and joy when He invites you to respond in faith and love as Mary did.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How does it feel to imagine Jesus calling your name personally?
2.	What barriers might keep you from responding to His call?
3.	How can you deepen your relationship with Jesus today?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a letter to Jesus responding to His call by name.
2.	Recall moments where you felt God's personal presence.
3.	Describe what it means for you that Jesus knows you intimately.







Prayer for Today

Dear Jesus, thank You for calling me by name. Your voice brings hope, peace, and a fresh start. Help me to hear You clearly and to respond like Mary—with love, trust, and devotion. May I embrace the deep connection You desire to have with me. Teach me to live in the joy of being known and loved completely by You.



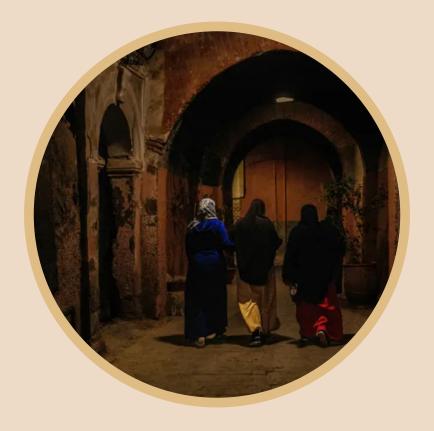


















Your Verse

John 20:17 – '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..."'

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 28:19 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.'
- Acts 1:8 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.'







Devotional: Embracing Our Calling to Witness

Jesus' words to Mary Magdalene emphasize a new mission—she is called not just to encounter but to proclaim. The resurrection changes everything. Mary becomes the first messenger of the risen Christ, entrusted with sharing the good news with Jesus' followers.

This teaches us that an encounter with Jesus is not only deeply personal but also purpose-driven. We are invited to share His love and resurrection hope with others. The call is a reminder there is always a mission waiting for us after our encounter with Christ.

Reflect on how your own experiences with Jesus empower you to be a witness. How might God be inviting you to share His story today?







Reflect and Apply

1.	Have you felt a personal mission to share your faith?
2.	What fears or doubts arise when you think about witnessing for Christ?
3.	How can your encounter with Jesus inspire others?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about how God might be calling you to share His love.
2.	Journal your feelings about witnessing and evangelism.
3.	Make a list of people you could pray for and share the gospel with.







Prayer for Today

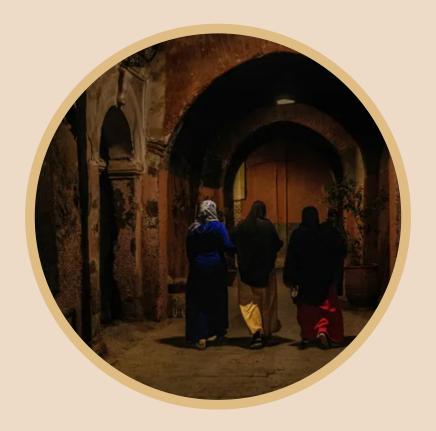
Lord, thank You for giving me a purpose through my relationship with You. Help me to overcome fears and boldly share Your resurrection power. Fill me with the Holy Spirit to be a faithful witness, just as You called Mary to be. Use me to bring hope and light to those around me. May my life declare Your victory over death.

















Your Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17 – 'If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!'

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 6:4 'We were buried with him through baptism into death... so we may live a new life.'
- Ephesians 2:4–5 'Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ.'







Devotional: New Life Through the Risen Christ

Mary's encounter with the risen Jesus changed her forever. Her mourning turned into mission, fear into boldness, and despair into hope. Encountering Jesus brings transformation—not just a change of circumstance but a new identity.

As believers, resurrection power means we are made new in Christ. Our past mistakes and pain do not define us. Jesus' victory empowers us to live a renewed life characterized by love, grace, and purpose.

Reflect today on how meeting Jesus has or can transform your life. What old ways do you need to let go? What new life is Jesus calling you toward?







Reflect and Apply

1.	What differences has Jesus made in your heart and character?
2.	Are there old habits or beliefs you need to surrender for new life?
3.	How can you live more fully as a new creation in Christ?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe the transformation Jesus is working in you.
2.	Write about old parts of yourself you want to release.
3.	List new habits or attitudes you want to develop in Christ.







Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for making me new through Your resurrection. Help me to let go of the past and embrace the abundant life You give. Fill me with Your Spirit to live in freedom, love, and joy each day. May my transformation be a testimony of Your grace and power.



















Your Verse

Acts 1:8 - 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...'

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Peter 3:15 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.'
- Philippians 2:15 'Live as lights in the world.'







Devotional: Empowered to Share the Resurrection Hope

Mary Magdalene became the **apostle to the apostles**, a vital witness to Jesus' resurrection. Her story calls us to live as witnesses—bearing the light of Christ in a world in need of hope.

Being a witness involves more than words; it's a lifestyle of integrity, love, and faithfulness. The Holy Spirit equips and empowers us to testify confidently and courageously, even when it's difficult.

Consider how your actions and words reflect the resurrection life within you. How can you shine as a beacon of hope to those around you? Who might God be calling you to encourage or reach out to this week?







Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you currently witness to the hope you have in Christ?
2.	What role does the Holy Spirit play in your testimony?
3.	Who in your life needs to see the light of Christ through you?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time you shared your faith and the outcome.
2.	List practical ways to live as a witness daily.
3.	Pray and journal about people God wants you to reach out to.







Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, empower me to be a faithful witness of Jesus' resurrection. Give me courage to share Your hope and love through words and actions. Help me to live as a light in the darkness and to trust Your guidance in every opportunity. May my life reflect the power of Christ alive within me.

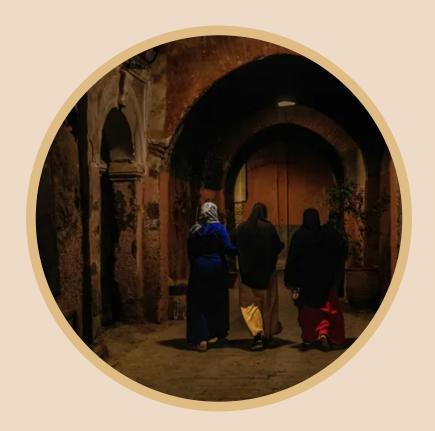


















Your Verse

John 20:18 - 'Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"'

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 6:9 'For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again.'
- 1 Corinthians 15:20 'But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.'







Devotional: Rejoicing in Jesus' Resurrection Victory

The culmination of Mary's encounter is joyful proclamation. Her testimony, "I have seen the Lord," rings through history as the foundation of our faith. Resurrection is not just an event but a living reality that continues to transform lives.

Today is a day to celebrate! Celebrate that Jesus is alive, that death has been defeated, and that we are invited into abundant, eternal life through Him. Let gratitude fill your heart and faith inspire your daily walk.

As you close this study, carry Mary's joy and boldness with you. Share the good news confidently and live fully as a child of the risen King.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How does the resurrection impact your everyday life?
2.	What joy or hope does the risen Jesus bring you personally?
3.	How will you share this joy with others moving forward?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about what it means to you that Jesus is alive.
2.	Journal ways you can celebrate and share the resurrection today.
3.	Reflect on your faith journey and new hopes since this study.







Prayer for Today

Risen Lord, thank You for the victory over death and the gift of new life. Fill me with joy and boldness to share the good news that You live. May the reality of Your resurrection inspire every step I take and every word I speak. Help me to live as a witness to Your power and grace each day.









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