

## Resurrection appearances of Jesus

A poem by John of Damascus  
The day of resurrection?  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness,  
The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From this world to the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over  
With hymns of victory.  
Now let the heavens be joyful,  
Let earth her song begin;  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
And all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes in gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord hath risen,  
Our Joy that hath no end.

.John 20: 10 – 31

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, His disciples and Thomas

### Mary Magdalene

#### Background

- Mary had been demon possessed. Jesus had cast out 7 demons from her. (Mark 16: 9)
- She had, along with other women, traveled around with Jesus and his disciples and helped to support him out of her own means. (Luke 8: 2 – 3)
- Mary stood at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified. (John 19: 25)
- Mary went to the tomb while it was still dark on the first day of the week. (John 20: 1)
- Mary stayed at the tomb when everyone else went home (John 20: 10 – 11)
  
- Mary was crying – sobbing
- She was probably distraught at losing the only person who showed her unconditional love.
- Her life was a mess and Jesus gave her her life back – he set her free from her bondages
- She relied on Jesus to give her meaning to life – now he was gone.
- She loved Jesus because she knew that he loved her.
- The angels asked her “Woman, why are you crying?”
- Jesus asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

### His Disciples

#### Background

- They were all Jews
- They were expecting their Messiah
- They thought that Jesus was their Messiah who was going to overthrow the Romans
- They had great plans and ideas of how it would be when Jesus would rule and they would rule with Him

- Now they were living in fear of the Jews
- They stayed behind locked doors
- Their hopes of liberation had been dashed at the crucifixion of Jesus
- Despondency set in – was it all a dream without any substance
- Would they now be mocked by their family and friends for following Jesus?
- Was it all a lie?
- Confusion!
- Let's forget about everything and go fishing – go back to our old life.

### **Thomas**

#### Background

- Thomas was willing to die with Jesus (John 11: 16)
- He questioned Jesus about where He was going and how they can know the way to where He was going.
- Thomas rejected the idea of the resurrection.
- Skepticism set in
- He wanted proof.
- He wasn't going to believe anything else at face value.
- He felt let down and dejected.

#### **Jesus appeared to them**

- The appearance was transformational
- They never thought that he would actually rise from the dead and here he was standing in front of them.
- They needed a major paradigm shift in their thinking.
  - Stop thinking in accordance to what you know and start thinking in accordance to what God knows.
  - Stop thinking in accordance to the ways of the world and start thinking in accordance to the kingdom of God.
  - Stop thinking about your own plans and start thinking about God's plans
  - Stop thinking about your inabilities and start thinking about the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead that has been made available to us.
  - Stop despairing and start walking in purpose and hope in Christ
  - Stop not believing and start walking in faith in Him who is able to raise the dead
  - Stop believing the lie that God has left us and start believing the promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

#### **Jesus' resurrection:**

- Broke the power of sin and death for all who believe.
- Gave us an absolute hope that we too will be raised to eternal life.
- Gave us an eternal, living high priest who sits at the right hand of God interceding for us.
- Released the Holy Spirit to fill us with power to fulfill God's purposes on earth.

**Mary Magdalene, the disciples and Thomas were all transformed by Jesus' resurrection. Has it had any effect on our lives and church?**