

- I) INTRO: The apostles Peter and John had come to the tomb, and had discovered it to be empty
  - a) Mary Magdalene and others had come early to the tomb to complete Jesus' burial
    - 1) Upon arriving early that morning, they found that the stone had been rolled away (V1)
    - 2) Mt 28:2 Says an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone
- II) ALARMED: She ran to inform the apostles of these events, and Peter and John came to the tomb
  - a) As Peter and John viewed the tomb, they experienced different reactions
    - 1) AT FIRST: Peter only saw an empty tomb
    - 2) ON THE OTHER HAND: John saw and believed that Jesus had risen from the dead
    - 3) V10 AFTER VIEWING THE TOMB: The apostles returned to their own homes
- III) AS THE APOSTLES WENT AWAY: Mary was unwilling to leave and remained behind
  - a) She was determined to find out what had happened and would not leave so easily
    - 1) Perhaps she was waiting for someone who could give her the information she desired
- IV) V11 MARY STOOD: Outside by the tomb, *weeping* and as she wept she stooped down and looked
  - a) MARY: Was unwilling to leave the place her precious Lord had been buried in
    - 1) She was determined to find out what had happened to the Body of Jesus
- V) NOTICE: Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping (Strong crying, mourning with pain and grief)
  - a) Mary *loved Jesus* and was crying as if her heart would break
- VI) SHE IS A GREAT EXAMPLE: Of one who has been forgiven much, who loved much
  - a) Lu 8:1-3 reveals she had been delivered from seven demons and became devoted to Him
- VII) FACT: *Love for Jesus* is what makes a person a Christian
  - a) Those whom have been touched by the Lord love Him, and follow Him with thankful hearts
    - 1) She knew that He had the power to change lives and her life had been changed, and she loved Him
    - 2) Ps 116:1 I love the LORD, because He has heard My voice *and* my supplications.
- VIII) WHEN JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED: Mary was there, standing at the foot of the Cross
  - a) Mk 15:39-40 Tells us she watched Him as He slowly and painfully yielded up His life
- IX) WHEN JESUS DIED: Joseph of Arimathea took courage and asked for His Body, for burial
  - a) JOSEPH: Was a secret disciple of Jesus, for fear of the Jewish authorities
    - 1) He had not learned yet to have courage and boldness in his faith
- X) ON THE OTHER HAND, MARY: Loved Jesus and was a devoted follower and a genuine disciple
  - a) She had been delivered, and openly became one of His most devoted followers
    - 1) Ro 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because *it is the power of God* for the salvation of *everyone who believes*: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
    - 2) JOSEPH, AGE 7: Easter Bunny kneeling at the Empty tomb
- XI) KEY: After wrapping it in a clean cloth and placing it in his new tomb, Mary saw where Jesus was buried
  - a) This is the reason she had returned on Easter morning: To complete a proper burial (Mk 16:1)
    - 1) NOW: His body is missing, and she refuses to leave until she finds out where it is

- I) V12-13 AS SHE LOOKED INTO THE TOMB: She saw two angels in white sitting one at the head
  - a) They ask the question: Woman, why are you weeping? They have *taken away* my Lord
    - 1) Somebody has removed His body from the tomb, and I don't know where they have taken it
  
- II) V14-15 NOW: When she had said this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there and *did not know*
  - a) WHY? She has been in trauma for three days, it is early, she is distressed and is blinded by her tears
    - 1) THE QUESTIONS: Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?
  
- III) KEY: Mary's reaction is wrong because she has completely missed the point
  - a) REMEMBER: Jesus had said that all of this would happen, but it would not be the complete end
    - 1) Though her grief is totally understandable, the fact is she is actually in a state of unbelief
    - 2) Caesarea Philippi: Mt 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
  
- IV) KEY: Instead of *rejoicing* that His body was gone, proving His words to be true, she is sorrowing
  - a) She was aware of His words, but failed to embrace them to receive hope and comfort
    - 1) God's word is to be received by faith, embraced, and acted upon: she isn't acting on what she knows
  
- V) V15 NOTE: She *supposing Him to be the gardener*, said to Him Sir if *You* have carried Him away, tell me
  - a) GREAT PICTURE OF BURDEN OF RELIGION: A weak person carrying a dead teacher
  
- VI) FACT: World religions basically have disciples carrying a *dead teacher*
  - a) One, who cannot *personally* help, comfort, communicate or do anything but *incredibly burden*
    - 1) Jesus confronted the false teachers of His day with strong words
    - 2) Mt 23:4 they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers
  
- VII) JESUS OFFERS: What religious activity does not: Jesus offers us rest, in Him
  - 1) Mt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
  
- VIII) HERE IS SOMETHING: To help you to know if you believe in Jesus or not
  - a) Brit Hume, commentator on Fox News, told America that Tiger Woods needs Jesus in order to turn his life around, and that has got lots of folks pretty steamed. Hume told viewers of Fox News Sunday that, "The extent to which he (Woods) can recover seems to me depends on his faith," Hume said. "He is said to be a Buddhist. I don't think that faith offers the kind of forgiveness and redemption that is offered by the Christian faith. So, my message to Tiger is, 'Tiger, turn to the Christian faith and you can make a total recovery and be a great example to the world.'
    - 1) This comment actually resulted in outrage, disgust, and contempt
    - 2) I wonder if Brit had said he needed to convert to Islam if the response would have been the same
  
- IX) KEY: The world's religions cannot promise the forgiveness of your *sin* and heals your soul

- a) FACT: This is what God promised to do for man, through His Son Jesus Christ
  - 1) Heb 8:12 I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.
  - 2) Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- I) ON THE OTHER HAND: We who are Christians do not carry around the body of a dead Master
  - a) We have a living Lord, who carries *us*
    - 1) Lu 15:4-6 What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!
    - 2) Is 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, *and carry them* in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.
- II) V16 JESUS SAID TO HER: *Mary!* She turned and said to Him, Rabboni!
  - a) She now hears the voice of her Shepherd: A *personal* Shepherd *personally* knows her!
    - 1) Jn 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because *they know his voice*.
- III) V17-18 JESUS SAID TO HER: Do not cling to Me for I have not yet ascended to My Father
  - a) She is clutching Him, as if she is afraid of losing Him again:
    - 1) Let me go! A new work is occurring, and I am no longer going to be physically present with you
    - 2) Jn 14:15-18 If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither *sees* him nor *knows* him. But you know him, for he lives *with* you and will be *in you*. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
- IV) V18 MARY: Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken
  - a) RESULT: She testified of what Jesus had told her
    - 1) This is what we are doing today: Jesus is alive, and is willing to be with and in your life
- V) JESUS CHRIST: Is the Savior God sent to the world
  - a) Because we were separated from God through sin, Jesus took human flesh and dealt with it
    - 1) Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
    - 2) 1 Co 15: 55-57 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.