

4 - Prince of Paradox

Meditations on Christ from the Gospel of John – John 20:1-16
04/4/2010 - Jim Johnson

The life of Christ was full of paradox. There is even a paradox involved in His resurrection.



John 20:1-2

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to finish the job of preparing the corpse of Christ for His eternal rest. She found that the tomb had been violently disturbed and came to the conclusion that someone had stolen the body of Christ. She turned and ran to get some help from the disciples. She delivered her alarming message to Peter and “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” We know this man to be the apostle John himself. They decided to join Mary in the hunt.

Peter, John and Mary began to search for _____.

B. John 20:3-10

They raced to the tomb, with John arriving first. He looked in but did not enter. He was followed by Peter who barged right in. He noticed that the Roman guard was gone, that the stone disc that had covered the entry was disheveled and laid on the ground. He noticed that the linen wrappings were not disheveled, but simply empty of what had once filled them and that the napkin that had covered Christ’s head was neatly folded and laid aside. A grave robber would have been more concerned with haste rather than tidiness. John entered the tomb, and saw the same things. He no doubt, remembered Christ’s prediction. (Matt. 20:18-19) In that instant, John believed. He came to believe that Christ had been raised.

Peter and John Found an Empty _____.

They searched for the decomposed corpse of Jesus - but what they found instead - was an empty tomb. The disciples then chose to return to their homes. (20:10)

C. John 20:11-16

Mary lagged behind but finally arrived and continued her tearful search for Christ’s body. She looked into the tomb and saw two angels. They asked why she wept and she told them, *“Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”* She then turned and saw a man who she perceived to be the gardener. He also asked why she wept and who she sought. She assumed that he was the one that had removed the body so she replied, *“Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”* Jesus then revealed Himself to her calling her by her name, “Mary,” and she understood that it was Jesus.

Mary found the _____ Savior.

ANALYSIS

The risen Jesus hid from His disciples but _____ himself to Mary.

This a paradox for it would seem that the opposite should have been true – that Christ would have first revealed Himself to His disciples. Why would Jesus hide from His disciples and yet appear to Mary?

1. It wasn't because she was _____ to him.

Jesus had 12 disciples who had been very close to Him. Three of those disciples, Peter, James and John were part of his inner circle. Of those three, John seems to have been favored by Jesus.

2. It wasn't because she was more _____ than they were.

Not long before this Jesus had a conversation with Peter and charged him with the responsibility for his church. (Matt. 16:18-20) Peter and John would be essential to the success of the church to come. Peter would write his epistles and John his Gospel and epistles. These guys were super important – much more than Mary.

3. It wasn't because she had more _____.

John looked at that empty tomb and believed that Christ was risen and alive. She looked at the same tomb, and was still convinced that someone had stolen his body.

Jesus revealed himself to Mary because she kept looking when the others _____.

After John came to faith, he and Peter went home. (20:10) They gave up on the search. Mary stayed. She was not going to move until she had found Jesus. Once she found Him, she would not let go. (20:17)

APPLICATION

Jesus reveals Himself to those who are really _____ for Him.

If you are looking, and I mean really looking for Jesus – you will find Him. Some of us know Him, but we need to seek more of Him. Psalm 105:4, “*Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.*” Others are not Christians, and we need to seek the Lord for His salvation. Amos 5:6, “*Seek the Lord that you may live...*” Seek the Lord. Tell him this morning that you want him, that you need Him, that you will search until you find Him.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. What others verses of Scripture do you recall that contain the concept of seeking the Lord?
2. What does seeking the Lord mean to you at this point in your journey?
3. Do you relate more to the disciples who believed and went home or Mary who kept searching? Why?