

John 20:11-18

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

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Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). 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, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus is calling your name.

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That means:

How we can be sure:

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- 1. Resurrection was the worst strategy.
- 2. The first eye witnesses were <u>women</u>.
- 3. No one knows where the tomb is!

B. Jesus knows you.

- ¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
- ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
- ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

- ⁷Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
- ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

- ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand —when I awake, I am still with you.
- ¹⁹ If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- ²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

- ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- ²² I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.
- ²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

C. Jesus invites you to come alive.

Ephesians 2:1-5

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.