

The First Resurrection Witness
John 20:11-18

Last Sunday: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Today: The First Resurrection Witness

Jesus Christ's resurrection proves that:

1. He is the Son of God. Rom. 1:4, He "was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead."
2. His atoning work on the cross was effective and complete. Rom. 4:25, He "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."
3. His resurrection and our resurrection are bound together. 1 Cor. 15:17, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."

20:14/ "Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus."

How did Mary not know that it was Jesus?

1. She was blinded by her own grief or the early morning light.
2. She did not expect to see someone who died on Friday to be in perfect health on Sunday. Is. 52:14, "His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind."
3. Jesus hid this knowledge from her (just like the two on the road to Emmaus, Luke 24).
4. Jesus had a resurrected body (perfect health, looked younger?).

20:15/ "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?'"

J. C. Ryle, "Her tears were needless. Her anxiety was unnecessary. Like Hagar in the wilderness, she had a well of water by her side, but she had no eyes to see it ... Let us pray for more faith and patience, and allow more time for the full development of God's purposes."

20:17/ "Go to my brothers..."

The apostles had been called "servants" and "friends." Why does Jesus now call them brothers?

1. He is fulfilling a prophecy. Ps. 22:22, "I will tell your name to my brothers."
2. He is the first with a resurrected body. Rom. 8:29, He is "the firstborn among many brothers."
3. He is not ashamed of them because they (and we) are of the same family. Heb. 2:11, "He who makes holy and those being made holy all have the same origin, and so he is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters."

Application

1. God is sovereign, he loves you, and he knows what is best for you (Rom. 8:28).
2. We have no need to fear death. Christ calls himself, “the living one” (Rev. 1:18).
 - a. Matthew Henry, “Christians need not be afraid of the grave, since Christ has laid in it; for them there is nothing frightful in it ... Let us therefore conquer the fear we have when we think of a dead body, or be alone among the graves. Since we must be dead and in the grave shortly, let us make death and the grave familiar to us, as our near kin. We must be willing to go through the grave to Christ; that (is the) way he went to His glory, and so must we.”
 - b. Charles Spurgeon, “The best day of a Christian's life is his last; for it is closest to heaven.”
3. The end of this life is not the end but just the beginning (Jn. 10:28, “Never perish”).
4. The ultimate goal of our salvation is not just heaven but our resurrection (1 Cor. 15).
5. The best way to get through this life is to put your hope in the promises of God.
 - a. Ps. 42:11, “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God; for I shall yet praise him, my savior and my God.”