

SERMON DATE: April 4, 2021

SERMON SERIES: The Power of His Resurrected Life

SERMON TITLE: The Power that Turns Fear into Faith

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

John 20:1-10

Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene *came early to the tomb, while it *was still dark, and *saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb. ² So she *ran and *came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and *said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” ³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. ⁶ And so Simon Peter also *came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he *saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Six Observations About Fear:

Observation #1: Fear does not come from God.

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. (2 Timothy 2:7)

Observation #2: Love is the antidote for fear.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. (1 John 4:18)

Observation #3: God commands us not to be afraid.

‘Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’

(Isaiah 41:10)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

When the resurrection of Jesus Christ is real in our lives, God gives us the power to transform fear into faith.

INTRODUCTION

When God wants to transform our lives, His focus is more on availability than on ability.

John 20:1

Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene *came early to the tomb, while it *was still dark, and *saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb.

Who was Mary Magdalene and how does she happen to be a part of this story?

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

Mark 15:46-47

Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the *mother* of Joses were looking on to see where He was laid.

Observation #4: Fear does not know what is real.

Lesson #1: Fear is a matter of perception, but when you open your "spiritual eyes", fear turns into faith.

John 20:2-5

2 So she *ran and *came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and *said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." 3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. 4 The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; 5 and stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in.

Observation #5: In times of fear and distress, we often forget what God has said.

Lesson #2: The faith of others can help us overcome our own fear. We need the power of a good example.

SERMON NOTES

⁶ And so Simon Peter also *came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he *saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

John 20:6-10

Observation #6: Fear turns into faith when you see and believe, but true faith comes when you believe even though you cannot see.

Lesson #3: Fear becomes faith when you see and believe. Once you believe, you can see more clearly.