

From the Pastor's Pen

Her life was a wreck. She was miserable, and most people would call her “dysfunctional.” That is, until she met Jesus. Prior to Jesus, she had been possessed by at least seven demons. No one knows exactly how much havoc her condition wreaked in her life. One thing is certain: when Jesus stepped into her life, she was changed. She was delivered. “Transformed” would have best described the new Mary!

Finding herself following the event of the day, she listened in disbelief as an angry mob cried out, “Take Him away! Crucify Him!” She was in utter shock as she found herself standing at the foot of the cross witnessing the death of her Savior. It seemed as though the demons that had once controlled her life were now at work in the lives of the angry mob.

“This just cannot be happening!” she cried.

Jesus was a kind man, offering help and love to those who could not help themselves. She listened as He gasped for every breath. She wanted to cry, but the horror and shock paralyzed her; she was stunned!

Finally, as if someone opened a flood gate, the tears began to rush down her cheeks. Shaking her head, she whispered softly, “No, no, no. Jesus, no!” She heard Him cry out to God, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Then she, too, was gasping for air as she sobbed, watching as her Savior continued to love us with His dying breath!

All through the night, Mary Magdalene cried as the images from the day replayed in her mind, haunting her. She woke up early on the third day after Jesus was crucified. Mary went to the place where Jesus was buried. Peter and John were there too, staring in disbelief at the empty burial clothes in the place where Jesus’ body had been. Adding to her sorrow, Mary couldn’t believe that someone could desecrate Jesus’ grave—for He was no longer there.

Peter and John left and Mary stood just outside the tomb, weeping. No one else was around, or so she thought, when she bent over to take a peek for herself into the tomb. To her surprise, two angels dressed in white sat where Jesus had laid, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked what seemed to be a peculiar question, “Woman, why are you crying?”

Making her sorrow known, she asked them if they knew where her Lord had been taken. Nothing could have prepared her for what happened next. She turned away from the tomb’s entrance only to find another person there who also wanted to know why she was crying. “Who is it you are looking for?” he inquired.

Taking a few moments to let it all sink in, Mary then realized that the Lord she sought was alive and well. He who was dead conquered death and IS alive!

Praise be to God! The one thing that separates Christianity and every other religion is the fact that the Son of God is risen indeed! The Apostle Paul writes in 1st Corinthians 15, “Where oh death is your victory, where oh death is your sting?”

Let me say it again: He Has Risen Indeed!

Pastor Tenney