

Let Hope Arise
John 20:11-18

Getting Started

- ❖ What is a dark or discouraging moment in your life that ended happily?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. It is understandable why we become pensive, anxious, somber around death.
2. When death touches someone close to us, it is right that we respond with deep emotions. (v.11-13)
3. (TT) Jesus gives us real living hope for life's heart-breaking events. (v.14-18)

Digging Deeper (Read the sermon text again and discuss the following questions.)

- Let's start with Mary Magdalene:
 - Why do you think Mary went to the tomb?
 - How would you describe Mary Magdalene on Easter morning?
 - What did she discover and how did she respond when she initially arrived?
 - What had happened just prior to her interaction with the angels in verse 11?
 - How would you describe her emotional and spiritual state that morning? What was her life story that would contribute to that kind of response?
 - What do her question to the angels and to Jesus reveal about her expectations that morning?
 - Do her questions in any way validate to you the gospel story? If so, why?
 - How would you describe her reaction when she realized she was talking to Jesus?
- In verse 17, why did Jesus tell Mary not to hold on to Him? What does that tell you about Mary's response when she realized it was Jesus and not a gardener?
- In verse 17-18, what did Jesus tell Mary to do and what did she do?

Apply It!

- ❖ Do you have something going on in your life where you need real, living hope?
- ❖ How can the resurrection of Jesus give you hope for whatever it is that you are facing?
- ❖ If you had been one of the disciples who had heard Mary's exciting news, how do you think you would have reacted?
- ❖ If you were speaking with a skeptic, are there details in the first 18 verses of John that you would suggest to the person validate the story is authentic and not a fable or myth?

Think About It!

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. (Martin Luther)

No matter how devastating our struggles, disappointments, and troubles are, they are only temporary. No matter what happens to you, no matter the depth of tragedy or pain you face, no matter how death stalks you and your loved ones, the Resurrection promises you a future of immeasurable good. (Josh McDowell)