

EASTER 2023

“Who Are You Searching For?”

¹ Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ² She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, **“They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”** John 20:1-2 (NLT)

³ Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴ They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. ⁸ Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— ⁹ for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then they went home. John 20:3-10 (NLT)

¹¹ Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹² She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ **“Dear woman, why are you crying?”** the angels asked her. **“Because they have taken away my Lord,”** she replied, **“and I don’t know where they have put him.”** John 20:11-13 (NLT)

¹⁴ She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. ¹⁵ **“Dear woman, why are you crying?”** Jesus asked her. **“Who are you looking for?”** John 20:14-15b (NLT)

Who are you looking for?

¹⁵ She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."¹⁶ **"Mary!"** Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").¹⁷ "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"¹⁸ Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, **"I have seen the Lord!"** Then she gave them his message. **John 20:15c-18 (NLT)**

So, who are you looking for? Because the One you have found is...

The resurrected JESUS who KNOWS YOU BY NAME!