

(John 20:1-18)  
Last week's message

## Divine Love and Imperfect Faith

Jesus' post-resurrection appearances is proof that his resurrection took place; there was formation of the faith of the disciples; and that we ought to view life with eternal/heavenly perspective. This Sunday and in the next two Sundays, we will look into the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus – when he first appeared to Mary (John 20:1-18), to the disciples and to Thomas who was not present when Jesus showed himself to them (John 20:19-29), and to his disciples who caught nothing while fishing (John 21:1-14). The first part of our message deals with Mary, the second with Peter and the beloved disciple and the third on the interaction between Mary and Jesus.

Mary Magdalene was tormented by seven demons that may have manifested physically as blindness, deafness, seizures, or as depression, anxiety, shame, loneliness, fear, and other miseries. Jesus set her free and thereafter she joined the close circle of Jesus' disciples, supporting them with food and supplies as they travelled. (Luke 8:1-3). She was with Jesus in his journeys through cities and villages up to his crucifixion.

**I. A puzzled Mary.** Mary and the other women came to the tomb early in the morning to anoint Jesus' body with spices (Mark 16:1). When they saw that the sacred corpse was no longer there and their spices useless, they were confused and alarmed, and Mary hurried off to tell Peter and the other disciple about their discovery. Though Mary loved Jesus dearly, her faith that Jesus would rise from the dead as he declared was weak. The absence of Jesus caused Mary deep distress and sorrow, such that John wrote that she was wailing and sobbing as she remained outside the tomb.

**II. A disciple not seeing and another seeing and believing.** The folded burial cloth is a significant evidence that Jesus' body was not taken as Mary thought. When John went inside the tomb and saw that the burial cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen, he saw and believed according to v. 8. To John, there was no hostile, deliberate, and hurried attempt to take away the body as the burial cloth was neatly folded. The word "believed" meant belief that Jesus rose from the dead. John related what Jesus had told his disciples in v. 9 and connected the folded burial garments to Jesus' resurrection.

There was no mention in the passage that Peter also saw and believed. Inside the tomb, he saw both the linen strips and the burial cloth that was wrapped around Jesus head which was folded up by itself. It was only the other beloved disciple who saw and believed. In fact, it is stated in v.9 that for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

**III. Jesus' life-giving words to Mary.** Mary must have been so overwhelmed with emotional distress that she did not notice the burial cloth used to wrap the head of Jesus folded neatly and placed separately from the stripped of linens. Mary did not leave the tomb as Peter and John did. When Jesus showed himself to her, she did not recognize him at first, but when Jesus called her name, the sheep recognized the Shepherd's voice. Mary responded by calling him Raboni or teacher. Commentators suggest that when Jesus told her not to cling to him as he has not ascended to his Father, he was not prohibiting Mary from touching him. One commentary suggests that she may have been clinging to Jesus' feet so he will not disappear.

As Jesus sends Mary away with a commission to tell the disciples this: 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God' (v.17), we see a new phase in the relationship between Jesus, His Father, and the disciples. Jesus has completed the work and he is excited to go back to his Father. Jesus refers to the disciples as his brothers and that if they were to be his brothers, then, they can call Jesus' Father as their Father, his God as their God. The disciples are taken into the Father and Son fellowship. In the same way, we who are his followers are also

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life** with **Him**.

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

*Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

*1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."*


4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to **save** you.

*Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

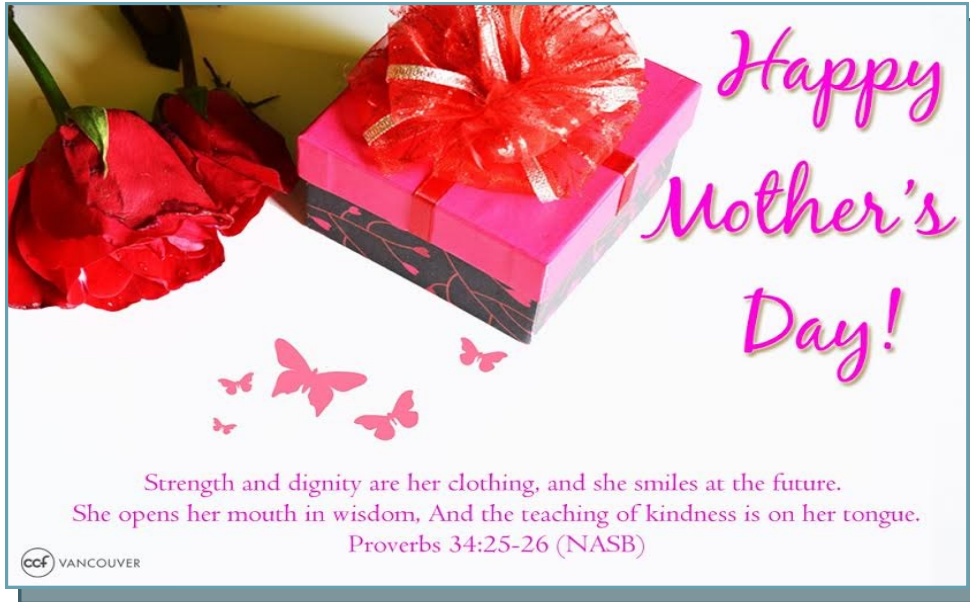
5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

*1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

 CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICES	ADDRESS	CONTACT US	SOCIAL MEDIA
10:00 AM – 12:00 NN 700 ROYAL AVE. NEW WESTMINSTER, BC	32855 HARWOOD CR. ABBOTSFORD, BC V2S7A6	(778) 255-5777 CONTACT@CCFVANCOUVER.ORG	CCFVANCOUVER.ORG  CCF VANCOUVER

# TO ALL MOTHERS!



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Please use CCF tithe envelopes (available at usher's table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table.

*If you're giving via cheque, please write it to CCF Vancouver.*

You can now give ONLINE!! Just go to [www.ccfvancouver.org/give/](http://www.ccfvancouver.org/give/) to donate. Thank you.

## IDR 2017- REGISTER TODAY!

Today, May 14, is the deadline to register for our upcoming INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT (IDR) to be held at Charis Camp and Convention Center, Chilliwack, BC on June 9-11, 2017.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

- Call to worship
- Praise and worship
- Children dismissal
- Announcements
- Sermon
- Response song
- Prayer for Moms
- Benediction



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Request/Answered Prayer

Please drop in tithe boxes