



**John 20:1-18**  
**New International Version**  
**The Resurrection**

**20** Early on Sunday morning,<sup>[a]</sup> 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!”

**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.

**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.”

**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?”

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.

Vanity of Vanity all is vanity ~ Rejoice in the Lord, again rejoice



# Sermon Notes

## THE EASTER ADVANTAGE

### **Revelation: Something is Horribly Wrong**

- i. Bible says we are corrupt, twisted, warped and useless.
- ii. We are beyond a simple tweak, an upgrade or an add-on.
- iii. We do not realize our true condition. (Rev. 3:17, Luke 23:34)

Jesus told them, “*Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who **think** they are righteous, but those who **know** they are sinners.*” Mark 2:17 (NLT)

### **RESCUE: The Cure is Christ**

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Cor. 5:21

### **REWARD: Yesterday's despair lost in today's promise**

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 15:55,57

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” Rm 8:1

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,*

*This is the power of Christ in me!*

# LIVING WORD

## *The Dogwood Tree*

When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew  
To a towering size with a lovely hue.  
Its branches were strong and interwoven  
And for Christ's cross its timbers were chosen

Being distressed at the use of the wood  
Christ made a promise which still holds good:  
"Not ever again shall the dogwood grow  
To be large enough for a tree, and so

Slender and twisted it shall always be  
With cross-shaped blossoms for all to see.  
The petals shall have bloodstains marked brown  
And in the blossom's center a thorny crown.

All who see it will think of Me,  
Nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree.  
Protected and cherished this tree shall be  
A reflection to all of My agony."

*Anonymous*

*Remember this:* God may not do what you want, but he will do what is right ... and best. He's the Father of forward motion. **Trust him**, know him and He will get you home. And the trials of the trip will be lost in the joys of the feast. (Max Lucado)

In 1799, fifty years before the California gold rush, gold was discovered in North Carolina. At Stanfield in Cabbarus county a 12 year old boy found a nugget weighing 17 pounds. His father, John Reed, not knowing what it was, used it as a doorstep. In 1802 he took it to a market in Fayetteville. A jeweler recognized that the doorstep was gold and bought it for \$3.50. John Reed was neither the first nor the last to fail to recognize the value in something. Many do not recognize the value of a marriage until it is gone. Some do not recognize the value of the home, the value of the church, the value of a good reputation. Each one is priceless and never to be treated lightly.

"A man who denies his past is a man who truly denies himself a future, for he refuses to know himself, and to deny knowledge of oneself is to stumble through life as handicapped as the blind mute." — Tobsha Learner, *The Witch of Cologne*

"God gives us just enough to seek him, and never enough to fully find Him. To do more would inhibit our freedom, and our freedom is very dear to God." — Ron Hansen

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;

"The Christian has a great advantage over other men, not by being less fallen than they, nor less doomed to live in a fallen world, but by knowing that he is a fallen man in a fallen world." — C. S. Lewis

"If you find God with ease, perhaps it is not God you have found." — Thomas Merton

"It is not the objective proof of God's existence that we want but the experience of God's presence. That is the miracle we are really after, and that is also, I think, the miracle that we really get." — Frederick Buechner

is the Way the Truth and Life only to those tired for the disorder, the deception and the death

The Christian Life is different from anything else you know.

**“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” -C.S. Lewis**

May the Lord God Almighty, in his mercy obliterate every word, statement, experience, and invisible barrier you may have constructed that is keeping his blessing from reaching your heart. May the unrelenting love of God pursue you and surprise you with his compassion for you. May the forgiveness of Jesus Christ restore and renew your hearts. May the living waters of the Holy Spirit fill you and flow through you to a struggling and broken world. May God's peace rest upon you, and may the Lord fill you with his joy. May his joy become your strength. In the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

In 1930, a Catholic bishop put up a 14-foot bronze crucifix at the Calvary Cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas. Fifty years later it was valued at \$10,000 when thieves cut it off at the base and stole it. They apparently wanted to chop it up and sell it as scrap metal. The police estimated at the time that the 900-pound cross probably brought around \$450 at a junk yard. (Based on an illustration from Lee Eclov's sermon [The Agony of Victory](#), PreachingToday.com)