

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the Amazing Jesus Series, Lesson 49

Lesson Title: Jesus' Resurrection

Take Home Point: Jesus is alive! He's with us forever!

Warm-Up:

As is true for many families, ours has developed inside jokes and phrases that we say to each other in certain situations. For example, when we hear the word "always", one of us will say something like, "Oh, 'always'! That's a pretty big word, isn't it?" Typically, this happens when someone uses phrases such as, "I always have to do the chores." Or "You always get to choose first." Of course, the word itself is not big, but it carries a truly big meaning. Always means the subject is true every time, all the time, and there is absolutely no other possibility of anything different occurring or being. Only two things in our human experience meet the "always" test – we always need Jesus and Jesus is always there with us.

Read: John 20:1-18

Observation (What happened?):

What did the disciples still not understand even though the tomb was empty?

What did Jesus tell Mary Magdalene to do instead of just holding on to him?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Who do you think Mary meant when she said, "They have taken my Lord away!"?

What was it about Jesus saying the name, "Mary," that you think caused her to recognize him?

Insight:

Much critical analysis of the past 200 years aimed to provide rational explanations for what otherwise must be supernatural as described in the written records. Most scholars attempting to do this started with a presupposition that miracles were outside their view of human experience, thus not to be believed. This has resulted in numerous theories explaining the empty tomb, some far more fantastic than God directly intervening in the natural world. But what is most interesting is that no one ever seriously questions the fact of the empty tomb! Nowhere in the gospels or other writings of the time do the Romans, Jewish leaders, or secular historians ever challenge that Jesus was not there on Sunday morning. None of the early church writings, whether in teaching or defending the faith, bother to substantiate the claim. So as is usually the case with God, it comes down to choice. What do we do with the empty tomb? We either believe Jesus, who declared he rose from the dead and so conquered death, or we do not. And if we do not, then no amount of rational explanation will free the soul from slavery to self.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know Jesus is alive today?

Considering that Jesus overcame death, what are you facing that he can stand with you to overcome? How have you asked for his help?