



Sermon Growth Guide

October 11, 2020

The Beautiful Story - Beauty Restored

John 20:11-18

Key Verse: John 20:18

“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.”

Big Idea: In Jesus, each one of us finds restoration that we cannot bring about ourselves.

Foundations

Welcome to week nine of *The Beautiful Story* when we get to celebrate Easter! You see, Jesus didn't just die to pay the debt of sin; Jesus rose again. He walked out of that tomb, saw His friends, then ascended into heaven! And now, all who call on His name are brought into His resurrection life. They share His citizenship in the eternal Kingdom.

The Gospel is the good news that beauty defeats death and beauty is restored. It's the news of what Jesus has done to enter into the masterpiece. The news that Jesus has come to be the restorer of beauty, to take the stain away so that all of creation would begin to be restored to beauty. That each of us would be restored to the image of God within us. The gospel is news, not of how to fix yourself with moralistic carefulness, not of how to accept yourself in your fallen and soiled state, not of how to save yourself, but that Jesus has come to bring life, to seek and to save the lost.

We see the beginnings of this right here with Mary Magdalene. In Mary's heart, a turning happens when she starts to believe that maybe, just maybe, things are shifting now toward the beautiful hope of a beautiful restoration of all things under God's mighty hand. Can you believe it's possible?

Open and close your time of further study and application in prayer. Ask the Spirit of God to guide and guard your time in His Word.

Understanding God's Word

Reread verse 14. Often times in Scripture, people miss God at work or don't recognize Jesus for who He is. Describe a time when you looked back and realized that God had been moving in your life even though you were unaware of it at the time.

Reread verse 16. Pastor Tim described the “turning” in this verse as a significant shift in Mary's life. When did you make the decision to turn your life toward Jesus? If you haven't, what's kept you from doing so?

Applying God's Word

Pastor Tim reminded us this week that we are deeply loved. We are works of art, made by God, made in His image. However, it is often easy to forget this, or to feel like we have become marred beyond repair.

Take time this week to remind yourself of God's irrevocable love for you. Allow that to imbed in your mind. Accept that there is nothing you can do to change God's love for you. Consider experimenting with a new practice this week. Each morning, as you get out of bed, offer a brief prayer of gratitude using these simple words: “Thank you Lord for this beautiful day and for loving me.”

Witnessing God's Word

Reread verse 18. Mary brings good news to the disciples when she bears witness to the events outside the tomb. How has Jesus moved in your life? Who might He be calling you to share these stories with? Pray for this person by name as you close this time.