



Title | Beyond the Emptiness
Series | Now I See
Text | John 20:1-18
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Sermon Notes

John 20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and **saw** that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and **we do not know** where they have laid him." 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to **look** in, he **saw** the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He **saw** the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he **saw** and believed; 9 for as yet **they did not understand** the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to **look** into the tomb.

12 And she **saw** two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and **I do not know** where they have laid him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and **saw** Jesus standing, but **she did not know** that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" **Supposing** him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have **seen** the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her. *ESV (emphasis added)*

Big Idea:

John 20:18
Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" . . .
ESV

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

Read John 20:1-18. Identify every time John uses the words like, "saw," or "look," or "seen." Then go back and identify all the places where John describes or quotes Jesus followers in the story as not knowing or not understanding or supposing something contrary to fact. What seems to be the theme? How might this relate to 2 Corinthians 5:4-7? How does this relate to us today in situations where life is hard and looks empty?

Tuesday:

In John 20:1-18, identify every time the word "tomb" is used. Where does John stop using the word? How does this mark a transition in the story? Is there some emptiness in your life that seems to obscure your view of everything else? How do you look past it?

Wednesday:

Reread John 20:11-15. Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal himself first to Mary? Why do you think he doesn't just come right out and say in the very beginning something like, "Hey, Mary, it's me, Jesus"? Why do you think Mary takes so long to recognize Jesus? How does this relate to us?

Thursday:

Read John 16:32-33. How does this relate to John 20:1-18? Can you see that Jesus has already overcome the world? What does that mean for you?

Friday:

With our eyes we see an empty tomb; with our faith we see an abounding hope. If this is true, how do you make the turn from seeing only emptiness to seeing abounding hope?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the empty tomb. Thank you for rising from it to give abounding hope to all who believe in you. Help me now to see through the emptiness of my present difficulties. To see you. Amen.