

Petersburg Community Sunrise Service

"Turned Round"

3-6-16

CTW:

READING: John 20:1-18

AGD: early to avoid violating the Sabbath, just witness to a violent and unexpected crucifixion, blinded by grief. Have you ever been blinded by grief and heartache?

I supposed I could point out that the first witness and the first evangelist of the Resurrection of Christ was female. She was the first person to see the Risen Lord but she didn't recognize Him.

Blind and confused: Scared to see the stone removed—turned back to the men. She mistakenly thought someone moved His body.

Back to the tomb—this time looking in and seeing angels [how many times have we not heard a heaven sent message because we were so afraid and upset?] but not satisfied

We miss God: miss church when upset, sermons of hope, Jesus told them plainly, she thinks Jesus is the gardener after all she had seen His death and buried Him herself!

We miss God when allow the worries, troubles and trials of this life to blind us to eternal realities

We look to our bank account, we calculate the strength of our back, we turn again to empty tombs

I should remind you of where Maria of Magdala began.

She's often assumed to be a prostitute but the Scripture doesn't say that. Her life with Jesus began when Jesus cast 7 demons out of her. She followed Him and did what she could to support His ministry.

And she stayed with Him (mentioned more times than most of the disciples and unlike most of them present for the crucifixion).

But she still couldn't recognize Jesus—until He called her name, "Maria!"

Don't things change when Jesus calls our name!

We gain vision, we get clarity. Our hearts get realigned back to God. Our spirit fall back in with things eternal.

We all get turned around

We get scared and confused—God turns us back toward Him

We go looking in the tomb but He's not there

We run right into Jesus—and don't even recognize Him—until He calls our name.

Oh and we want to cling but He turns us round and says, "There's more folks out there, just as confused and scared and hurt as you were, bring them to Me"

He lives.