



# Daily Reflections

**April 18, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **John 20: 11-18**

Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping.

And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb

and saw two angels in white sitting there,

one at the head and one at the feet

where the Body of Jesus had been.

And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken my Lord,

and I don't know where they laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there,

but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?

Whom are you looking for?"

She thought it was the gardener and said to him,

"Sir, if you carried him away,

tell me where you laid him,

and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he had told her.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

One of the interesting details of each Easter account is that when the Lord first appeared to His disciples, they did not recognize Him. Why?

1. Because He had been radically transformed into glory. His look was beyond what their minds could comprehend.

2. Initially, they lacked Easter faith. Calvary was a huge scandal and it was difficult for them to get beyond that. But a word or gesture on the Risen Lord's part would open their eyes to His glorified presence.

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## Food for your Journey

"After" is every Christian's middle name: The Methodist missionary Earl Stanley Jones, in his autobiography *A Song of Ascents* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1968), tells of an African who changed his name to "After" immediately following his conversion. He reasoned that all things were new and different and important after he met Christ, so he was going to reflect that new reality in his name as well as in his thinking (16).

Easter is what makes us ""After"" Christians. "After" Easter, nothing in life is ever the same again.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Lord, Open my eyes and ears in faith so that I may recognize Your glorious presence here and now. May I witness to Your presence at all times. Amen.