



# Daily Reflections

**April 23, 2019**

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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**

Poor Mary! She thought she had been dealt a double whammy. Her Lord was dead and then someone stole His body! What a burden to carry, that is, until Jesus appeared to her. Her reaction is so incredibly human...hold on to Him for dear life, don't let Him get away. But Jesus still had work to do, and so did Mary. She had to take her Easter faith and witness to the unbelieving disciples back home. And so must we.

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## **Food for your Journey**

John Killinger, in his wonderful new book on the Beatitudes (Letting God Bless You [Nashville: Abingdon, 1992], 74, cites Herman Melville's Moby Dick, the great novel about the American whaling industry of the 19th century. "There is an unforgettable passage about a ship's lantern that hung in the captain's room on the Pequod. No matter which way the ship yawed and hawed in the rolling, pitching waves, the lantern always hung down exactly perpendicular to a line drawn through the center of the earth. As Melville said, it 'revealed the false, lying levels' of everything around it."

So it is with Easter.

So it is with Christ.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, The world in which I live needs the good news that only You have to give. You raised Your Son from death so that we could believe that no matter how sad and depressing things can get in this life, Jesus is alive and with us as He promised. We do have cause for joy and hope. Amen