



Daily Reflections

July 22, 2016

Scripture

John 20:1-2, 11-18

On the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”
Mary 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 Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord,"
and then reported what he told her.

Our Scripture Reflection

Yes, Mary Magdalene was indeed the first to go to the empty tomb, however, she lacked hope. Even though her faith was rekindled enough to recognize Jesus as "Rabboni", she still lacked hope in His promise to her of new life in Him. She refused to let go of Jesus' feet. She felt comfortable and safe in holding on, but hope meant letting go. Do you have true hope? Are you willing to let go of the past in order to trust and have hope in the Lord completely?

Food for your Journey

Role of Hope: In the British Museum is a painting called "Hope." In the background are the familiar outlines of the continents and oceans of planet Earth. But in the foreground is a beautiful woman seated at a harp - a harp

with strings dangling helpless from the top or lying uselessly on the lap of her dress, a harp with only one string still tautly strung.

A curator of the museum tells the story of two women who stood in front of the picture and commenting on how little of the harp was still intact. One said to the other: "Hope - why do they call it hope?" The reason is that from Moses to Mary Magdalene, the harp of hope has always been a broken instrument. Hope is always almost lost or it would not be hope. Hope is plucking that one string, knowing that.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, How easy it is to stay stuck in the past and to trust exclusively in present things. However, believing in You demands that I have hope in Your promise to make me a new person if I surrender to You. Strengthen me, Lord. Amen.

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