

“Do You Remember When God Called Your Name?”

John 20:1-19

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Introduction: One of the people I look forward to meeting in heaven is Mary Magdalene.

- She is mentioned fourteen times in the Gospels.
- She watched from a distance the crucifixion.
- She was an eye witness of Jesus’ burial.
- She was called Magdalene because she was from Magdala which was about three miles from Capernaum. Jesus was called the Nazarene because He was from Nazareth. Mary was called Magdalene because she was from Magdala.
- She is not the sinner in Luke chapter seven. Some believe that she is the unnamed sinner in Luke chapter seven because she is in Luke chapter eight. There are three women in Luke chapter eight. Had she been the sinner in Luke chapter 7, Dr. Luke would surely have mentioned her name.
- It is biblically erroneous to connect the unnamed sinner in Luke 7 to Mary Magdalene.
- The Bible tells us that Jesus delivered several women of evil spirits and sicknesses and Mary Magdalene was one of them (Luke 8:2).
- From that moment on, Mary Magdalene joined with several other women following Jesus and supporting His ministry.
- It is interesting that it was Mary Magdalene that Jesus first appeared after His resurrection.

But what I want to talk to Mary Magdalene about is none of this. I want to talk to her about what she felt on resurrection morning when Jesus said, “Mary.”

Text: John 20:1-10

T.S. Think what it would feel like for Jesus to call your name. Many people in the Bible and in life have had that very experience.

Some who God spoke to audibly:

1. Abraham had that experience. “Abraham, Abraham” (Genesis 22:11)
2. Moses had that experience. God called “Moses, Moses” from a burning bush (Exodus 3:4).
3. Samuel had that experience. (1 Samuel 3 tells us that God called Samuels name three times (verses 4, 6, 8).
4. In the New Testament we read of Jesus calling Martha. “Martha, Martha, you are troubled about many things (Luke 10:41).
5. Saul on the Damascus Road heard God call his name (Acts 9:4).
6. And in our text—“Mary.”

Some who God spoke to inwardly:

1. The Spirit led Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8).
2. The Spirit told the Christians at Antioch to separate Paul and Barnabas for the work God had for them (Acts 13).
3. The spirit constrained Paul from preaching the gospel in Asia (Acts 16).

4. The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1).

Question: Do you remember when God called your name?

- Audibly—perhaps
- Inwardly—probably
- Either way you know when it is God speaking to you.
- It may be like God spoke to Elijah (1 Kings 19:12).
- Not through a mighty wind, an earthquake, or a fire, but by a still small voice (1 Kings 19:12)

Illustration: God spoke to Charles Spurgeon through a Methodist layman reading Isaiah 45:22. (“Look to me and be saved” —Isaiah 45:22). The layman looked at Spurgeon who was then a young teenager and said, “Young man, you look miserable. Look to Jesus.” Spurgeon was saved that moment.

Illustration: John Wesley went to America to convert the Indians. He returned to England defeated and unsure of his own salvation. He wrote in his journal: “I went to America to convert the Indians. But Oh! who shall convert me.”

His friends persuaded him to attend a church meeting with them at a society on Aldersgate Street north of London. A layman read the preface of Martin Luther’s book on Romans and Wesley settled his salvation.

Conclusion: Do you remember When God called your name? Audibly- perhaps. Inwardly-probably. Perhaps God spoke to you in a mighty wind, or earthquake, or fire, or still small voice. Perhaps God spoke to you about your soul in a sermon or a song. It will be more real than if you heard Him with your human ears.

Invitation: Today, God is speaking to some to be saved. God is speaking so some to be baptized. God is speaking to some to join His church.