



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 17, 2011

Sermon

Lessons in the Stained
Glass:

*"I am the Vine, You are the
Branches*

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 7/18/11

Mark 16:9-11

Mark's version of this story is much shorter and ends in disbelief. Read this passage and imagine Mary's disappointment when her hearers did not believe her. Some things do seem too good to be true, even in our world where so many bad and negative things are happening all the time. What do you believe? Do you believe Jesus was risen from the grave? Do you believe his resurrection has anything to do with us or those who have died before us? What exactly do you believe?

Tuesday 7/19/11

John 20:12

When Mary looked into Jesus' tomb, she saw two angels in white, standing where Jesus' body had been lying. They even ask her a question and she takes it all in stride without seemingly being surprised that two angels are talking to her! Maybe Mary's angels didn't have wings or maybe they just looked like other humans of her day; but they were angels sent by God nonetheless. How many times do we encounter angels unaware? Keep your eyes open this week for any angels that might cross your path.

Wednesday 7/20/11

John 20:13

The reason Mary gives for her weeping sounds a bit strange to me--she was weeping because Jesus' body was not there, not because he died, but because his dead body wasn't there. Sometimes the immediate problems outweigh even the bigger problems I suppose. Are you weeping today or this week? Why? What makes you sad? What can you do about it? What can God do about it?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Go to a cemetery to pay respect for a loved one and think about the impact of Jesus' resurrection for this person...

Think about what Jesus' resurrection means to me...

Thursday 7/21/11
John 20:14-15

Mary turned away from the two angels and saw a man she assumed to be a gardener. He also asks her why she is weeping and then asks who is she looking for in the garden. This person is actually Jesus but Mary doesn't realize this. I think most of us can understand why--Jesus was dead, dead and buried, and he could certainly not be walking around and talking with her! Mary's mind prevented her from believing the dead could live again. What is preventing you from believing in the power of resurrection?

Friday 7/22/11
John 20:16-18

As soon as Jesus spoke Mary's name, she immediately knew who was standing there before her. There is something about knowing and using a person's name! After this, Jesus tells her to go and tell others about what she just witnessed. She listened and went out to tell others that she just saw the Lord and he was alive! She told them what she had seen and what he said to her. Her excitement led her to tell others about the resurrection and her enthusiasm surely was seen in more than just mere words! Are you excited about following the risen Savior? Does it show?

Saturday 7/23/11
1 Corinthians 15:12-58

The Apostle Paul asks some really good questions about death and life after death in this chapter. In fact, we often use some of these powerful words at a funeral. What do these words mean to you? Do they answer any questions you might have about death? Do they raise any new questions in your mind? How do these words encourage you and help you deal with death? This is often a topic people do not enjoy talking or thinking about, but we Christians are provided great hope even in the midst of death. So let's talk about it!