



Sermon: Knowing Christ and the Power of His Resurrection

Text: *John 20:11-18*

Preacher: *Gustavo Formenti*

Introductory question -

Eugene Peterson describes salvation as “the act of God in which we are rescued from the consequences of our sin (bondage, fragmentation) and put in a position to live in free, open, loving relationships with God and our neighbors.”

1. Read Exodus 12.33-50. How does the celebration of the Passover recount the story of God’s salvation?
2. What new relationships are formed in the event of the Passover?
3. How’s Israel’s knowledge of God is impacted by the events of their Exodus/Salvation?

Reflection questions:

1. How did the disciples fail to realize that God intended Jesus’ crucifixion to be part of his plan of salvation?
2. Mary Magdalene was a close follower of Jesus. How do you think she interpreted the events leading to the crucifixion and burial of Jesus? What kind of loss do you think she experienced?
3. Mary Magdalene briefly interacts with the angels sitting where the body of Jesus had lain. They ask her, “Why are you weeping?” In what ways can that question prepare grieving people for a place of healing?
4. Mary Magdalene turns around and sees a gardner. What’s the relevance of the theme of garden and gardeners in the story of salvation? What’s Adam’s role in the original garden? How did he fail?
5. Jesus, the second Adam, takes upon himself the role of ruling God’s new creation. What does Jesus’s ruling look like? How’s God’s New Creation bringing order to chaos? How is that connected to Jesus’ death and resurrection?
6. Mary Magdalene recognizes Jesus when he calls out her name. In what way does this personal calling open Mary Magdalene’s understanding to Jesus’ true identity? What’s Mary’s response to the resurrected Jesus’ personal invitation?
7. In verse 17, Jesus declares that, through his death and resurrection, the way mankind now relates to God the Father has changed. How did mankind relate to God before Jesus? How is this new “way of relating” to God impactful? How does that shape our personal experience of “knowing God”?