



*Easter*  
**SUNDAY**  
• HE IS RISEN •

**Easter Sunday**  
**The Gospel of Mary**  
*John 20:1-18*  
**When It Comes To Resurrection God Is An Equal Opportunity Employer**

***It's Resurrection Sunday! Christ Is Risen—Come Back At Me!***  
*He Is Risen Indeed! Pretty Presbyterian Kind of Chant, Right?*

***That Time My Friend Asked Me What I Was Going To Preach on Easter...***  
*Sometimes—you just need to tell the story... but the story has surprises*  
***Today—We're Going To Focus On A Surprising Figure: Mary***

*There was a time in my life when I thought that this was all too impossible to believe—but who wants to only believe in the possible, right?*

***And who wants to think that Resurrection is just for other people...***

**WHEN IT COMES TO RESURRECTION GOD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

***John 20:1-18***

***Mary has the first post-resurrection encounter with Jesus—why?***

- *Mary's origin story—Magdala, Seven Demons, Apostle to the Apostles*
- *Mentioned 12 times in the Gospels, more than most of the disciples*
- *Her sordid past was a fallacy—most likely wealthy, supported the mission*
- *Central figure in Gnostic texts, including the Gospel of Mary*
- *Understood the mission to be focused on Jesus' teachings—no additions*
- *There was resistance from Peter and Andrew—but the disciples stepped in*
- *She experienced the Resurrection first—Jesus calls her name...*

***Why does this matter? What's so important about this?***

*Mary stands in for the “rest of us” the ones who don't feel worthy...*

*But who Jesus makes worthy*

***The Most Impossible Part of the Resurrection—It's For All Of Us***

*Regrets become Realization. Longing turns to Love. Weakness becomes Strength. Death gives way to Life. Impossible is made Possible.*

**WHEN IT COMES TO RESURRECTION GOD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**



## SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

### **FOR FURTHER READING:**

***Show Me The Way: Daily Lenten Readings***

*Henri J. Nouwen*

***Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent & Easter***

*Various Authors*

***Preparing For Easter***

*C.S. Lewis*

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