



***Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him
away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."***

John 20:15

One of my favorite scenes from the Easter story is that moment outside Jesus' tomb when Mary Magdalene mistakenly thought she was talking to the gardener. Perhaps her grief was so deep she couldn't even raise her head to speak directly to the man. Maybe she just couldn't see; after all, John tells us "it was still dark" that morning (20:1). She had seen Jesus die on the cross on Friday. Maybe she just wasn't expecting to find him walking around the cemetery on Sunday!

For whatever reason, Mary Magdalene mistook Jesus for someone else. It was only when he called her by name that she realized who he was.

I believe we sometimes have that same "problem" today. We don't expect to find Jesus sitting beside us on an airplane. Or in the bed next to ours in the hospital. Or in line behind us at the grocery store. Sometimes we think we are surrounded by strangers only to realize later that in the midst of the crowd we are accompanied by a friend like no other. Someone ministers to us with Christ's words, Christ's comfort, Christ's hope. A stranger becomes a friend. And suddenly we realize: Christ is here!

I encourage you this week to reflect on the many ways in which Christ is ever present in your life. Take the time to make the journey to the cross. Be deliberate in your steps and aware of all that He endured to be present; to be here. Celebrate His entry into Jerusalem; receive Him in the breaking of the bread; feel the agony and the reality of His suffering and death; and then rejoice as loudly and as deliberately as you can the power and the hope of that empty tomb.

Prayer

Risen Lord, help me recognize you everywhere I turn. And help me reflect your Easter lesson in everything I do. Amen