

St. Francis Episcopal Church
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What You See Is What You Get

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-bo'ni!" (which means Teacher). John 20:16

The Welcome Into Life Comes From Jesus

I. Introduction

A. Bouncy House in Arizona

1. The person who rented it to me said "Kids will come streaming out of their houses."
2. We set it up in a park and no one came over to us
3. We even tried to convince a kid to jump in, but nothing

B. What does this have to do with the resurrection?

1. Jesus did not set up and hope people stop by.
2. He brings life to each one of us personally as well as all of us together.
3. We see this with Mary Magdalene at the empty grave of Jesus

II. The scene

A. The grave is empty

1. Familiar to most of us by now
2. Mary discovers the empty tomb
3. Tells Peter and John who run to check it out
4. Mary talks with two angels who encourage her
5. She talks with Jesus but does not recognize him at first

B. Jesus calls her by name

1. He calls her "Mary"
2. She recognizes him immediately
3. She calls him Rabboni which is Teacher or Master

C. What happened in this exchange?

1. Although Jesus and Mary have known each other for years it was like the first time Jesus called her by name
2. That is because it was the first time the resurrected Jesus called her by name
3. Jesus created a new capacity in her spirit to recognize him
4. He welcomed her into the new life that comes from the resurrection of Jesus
5. He gave her something to do-
 - a. Go tell the others
 - b. And become the first witness to the resurrection

III. What that means for us

A. Jesus, the risen one, will call you by name personally

1. It will create in you the capacity for new life that comes from the resurrection
2. And to be deeply aware of the presence of Jesus

B. Notice

1. Mary was in the garden with Jesus but did not recognize him until he called her by name
2. Through Jesus, who she just recognized because he gave her the capacity to recognize him, she was given what to do.
3. The same is true for us
 - a. Jesus calls you by name
 - b. You recognize him

- c. He gives you the capacity to join in the work he is doing
- C. A very important implication
 1. All ministry, new ministry or continuing ministry, comes from recognizing the risen Lord
 2. It is not looking around and seeing what it needed, as Mary did in the garden looking for the body of Jesus.
 3. It is discerning the presence of Jesus
 4. Ministry comes from discerning the presence of Jesus and what Jesus is doing in any given situation or place
 5. Everything we do or plan is to put us into the place where we can hear the voice of the risen Jesus call us by name

III. Conclusion

- A. Can you listen for Him now?
- B. Can you follow?