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NOVEMBER

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Mary Magdalene: The First Eyewitness of the Resurrected Christ

The Appearance to Mary

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). ¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:11-18

Recall from the previous article the question Mary Magdalene's eye witness account of Christ's resurrection begs: Will you believe in the Christ as the resurrected Savior of the World and Son of God? A good way in which to approach the appearance of the resurrected Christ to Mary is from a three-fold approach: the biblical, systematic and pastoral theological perspectives. From John's perspective, how does the resurrection fit within the context of John's Gospel? From the Bible's perspective, how does the resurrection fit within the context of the New Testament and its theme of salvation? Lastly, from the pastoral or personal perspective, how does the resurrection fit within the context of the believer's individual life, that of Mary's and of ours?

From John's perspective, how does the resurrection fit within the context of John's Gospel? Recall that John's gospel is a record of the eyewitness accounts of disciples to the revelation of God made by God himself in the person of Jesus Christ, through his teaching and with proof of signs. John's purpose is: *"these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*

The resurrection within the context of the Gospel of John is the final and most profound proof of Christ's identity as the Son of God. It is the fulfillment of Jesus' teaching that he is the resurrection and the life, as he told Martha just prior to raising Lazarus from the dead,

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-25

The resurrection of Lazarus and the resurrection of Jesus are bookends to the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, the Messiah, as the Savior of the world. By returning to Bethany near Jerusalem and performing the most miraculous sign of his ministry, the resurrection of Lazarus, Jesus begins the process of laying down his life for his friends, for all those who will believe him, as he draws the attention of the religious leaders to the point that they begin in earnest their plot to bring about his death. This process of the sacrifice of himself, on behalf of all those who will believe in him, is then completed with his own resurrection.

Mary is the first eyewitness of the resurrected Christ, to see him and to hear him, as recorded by John. The fact that Mary fell at the feet of Jesus, clinging to him, signifies and substantiates a physical resurrection. This is notable in the context of John's Gospel because at the time of his writing, John was certainly beginning to encounter some of the early teachings of Docetism, a heresy arising shortly after the first century which held that Christ never became incarnate but rather everything was "seeming." John emphasizes the very physical death of Christ in his death and the very physical life of Christ in his resurrection.

It is also notable that Mary is the first eyewitness. This gives authenticity to John's account of eyewitnesses. A collaborative lie by the Apostles purporting the resurrection of Christ certainly would not have Mary center stage as the first eyewitness. In the Jewish culture of the time, a woman wasn't even allowed to testify in court. Jews would never choose a woman as an eyewitness, as she couldn't be a witness in Jewish civil or criminal court.

From the Bible's perspective, how does the resurrection fit within the context of the New Testament and its theme of salvation? The overall narrative of the Scripture, as summarized by Tim Keller, is: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation. The life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus are the means of the redemption of creation, both of humanity and the remainder of the created order.

"Resurrection is the point of redemption. The whole purpose of God in creating and redeeming His people is to raise them to eternal glory so that they can worship Him forever. That is the point of His redemption – resurrection to eternal glory in not only glorified spirits, but glorified bodies. Our resurrection is secured by the power of God, the power of Christ demonstrated in His resurrection," so says John MacArthur. The resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead signals the satisfaction of the wrath of God by Christ's atoning sacrifice and the redemption from slavery to sin and death of all who will believe so they may enter into eternal relationship with God.

It is the truth of the resurrection of Christ Jesus and the same resurrection promised to all who believe in him that empowered the Apostles to preach the gospel in the face of death. If it were not true, would they have preached so as to bring about their own deaths, all of them in martyrdom, save John the Apostle?

The foundational nature of the resurrection to the salvation of the believer, as well as to the believer's ongoing hope and life, is very clear throughout the entirety of the New Testament and among all of the New Testament authors.

Listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. . . . God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Acts 2:22-24, 30

Legacy Weekend



Children's Ministry



Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

For children 3 years by September 1st through 6th grade.
Children work on Scripture memorization,
have a time of Bible study, and play fun games.

Music Ministry



Women's Ministry

Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday Mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich -
The Book of James, Library, 9:45 AM

Joy Richards -

The Book of Ephesians, Lecture Room (by water fountain), 9:45 AM

Sunday Nights

Meg Trihus -

Old Testament Survey, Conference Room, 5:00 PM

Wednesday Nights

Diana Hines -

The Book of II Samuel, Lecture Room (by water fountain), 6:45pm

Cyndi King -

Book of Acts, Conference Room, 6:45 PM

Friday

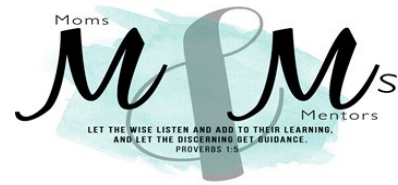
Cyndi King -

The Minor Prophets, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom), 9:00 AM

Jamye Aldape -

What Love Is Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 11:00AM

Contact Rachel at
rachel@matthewroad.org
to find out the latest events & activities!



3rd Mondays

What is it? A gathering of moms who are looking for support and answers, a safe place to bring our "junk" that we are dealing with on a daily basis and know that we are not alone!

Who is it for? ALL MOMS! Moms of preschoolers, school age children, teenagers, even adults! It doesn't matter if you have a traditional family, blended family, or you're a single mom. If you are a mom, this group is for you!

When is it and what time is it? The third Monday of every month at 6:45pm.

Where is it? Matthew Road Baptist Church in the Conference Room

Is childcare available? Yes, for \$5/child pre-paid for the semester (\$20/child for Sept.-Dec.)

Contact Information:

Cyndi King 214-762-9437 or cyndikking@msn.com

*We also have a secret Facebook group. Let us know if you would like to be added.

Cookie Decorating Class

Saturday, November 16th

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Fellowship Hall



Cost:

\$20 for adults

\$5 for children 12 yrs & Up
(attending with their parent)

Each person will leave with
6 cookies!

Join us on Friday, December 6th,
as we begin the Christmas Season
with a time of Advent.

We will Worship
We will read Scripture
We will join
together in Praise
And end the night
with a pie bar!

Friday, December 6th, 7:00pm, CommonGrounds

Feb.
21-22

Women's Retreat

Liberty Hotel

Cleburne, TX

Save the Date

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. Romans 6:3-10

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Romans 10:9-10

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. I Corinthians 15:3-8

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. I Corinthians 15:12-19

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:54-57

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

"God's raising Jesus from the dead announces to the world that Jesus was, in fact, God's 'anointed one,' the one through whom God was bringing salvation to his people." Douglas Moo.

November 2019 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- November 3rd:** Daylight Savings Time End (Fall Back One Hour on Saturday Evening)
- November 6th:** Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15pm, Teller Room
- November 7th:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- November 8th - 9th:** Pre-Teen/Youth/Legacy Weekend, email brittany@matthewroad.org for more information
- November 10th:** Deacon Meeting, 4:00pm, Library
- November 13th:** Special Missions Dinner, 5:15pm, Fellowship Hall
Quarterly Business Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- November 15th:** Parent's Night Out, 6:30pm, must rsvp to cyndikking@msn.com
Young Adult Ministry "Painting with Bob Ross", 6:30pm, email junior@matthewroad.org for info
- November 16th:** Women's Ministry Cookie Decorating Class, 1:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- November 27th:** Church Office closes at noon
- November 28th - 29th:** Church Office Closed in Observance for Thanksgiving Holiday

Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays

Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00 AM
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45 AM
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:00 PM
Evening Worship	6:15 PM

Mondays

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45 AM
PAW Program	9:00 AM

Tuesdays

MRA (during the school year)	8:30 AM
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45 AM

Wednesdays

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45 AM
PAW Program	9:00 AM
Student Ministry (youth)	6:30 PM
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30 PM
AWANA Clubs (children)	6:30 PM
Adult Bible Studies	6:45 PM

Thursdays

MRA (during school year)	8:30 AM
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Fridays

Chick Time, at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00 AM
Women's Bible Study (FH)	11:00 AM

Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30 AM
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Upcoming DECEMBER Calendar of Events

- December 1st:** Christmas Choir Musical
- December 6th:** Women's Ministry Advent Event
- December 13th:** Parents Night Out, must RSVP to cyndikking@msn.com
- December 20th:** Student Ministry Christmas Party
- December 24th:** Candlelight Service
- December 25th - January 1st:** Church Office Closed

Financials as of October 4, 2019

Budget Income	\$ 743,966
Budget Expense	\$ (777,735)
Net Budget	\$ (33,769)