



The Ark and the Gardener

“Life in His Name” Series

John 20:11-18, p.906

October 20, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God explains in more detail the meaning of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The Text: John 20:11-18

- 1) The resurrection tomb is the new Ark of the Covenant (vv. 11-12).

Exod 25:18-22: ¹⁸ And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. ... ²² There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim....

- 2) Jesus is the Gardener in his garden, the Second Adam who cultivates his creation (vv. 13-16).

Why does God speak with symbols and images in his telling of the death and resurrection of Jesus?

(1) Symbols help us understand the full story.

(2) Symbols utilize the Bible's known language.

(3) Symbols not only reach the head but inspire the heart.

- 3) The resurrection of Jesus points us to his ascension and the ministry of the Holy Spirit (vv. 17-18).

What is the point of the ascension of Jesus? The answer is in The Heidelberg Catechism (Q49):

(1) It comforts us since the resurrected Lord is our advocate in heaven in the presence of the Father.

(2) It confirms that we too shall physically be raised from the dead with and by Christ.

(3) It certifies that we have the Spirit, who is the guarantee of God's presence and our inheritance.

Response

The empty tomb declares the power of God, presence of God, and fulfillment of all the promises of God.

Sunday Text Questions for John 20:11-18

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- 1) Starter Question: Have you ever been deeply upset about something but later had your feelings changed or corrected?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why is there so much focus in this text (vv. 11, 13, and 15) on the weeping of Mary Magdalene?
- 4) Read Exodus 25:18-22. How does the narrative's description of the angels on the bench where Jesus had been laid in v. 12 make more sense in light of Exodus 25?
- 5) What is the significance of the empty tomb of Jesus becoming the "New Ark of the Covenant?"
- 6) What things stand out to you in the encounter between Mary and Jesus in vv. 13-16?
- 7) In light of the "garden theme" in chs. 18-20 in John, how does the narrator's commentary in v. 15 ("supposing him to be the gardener") make more sense in light of Genesis 2:15?
- 8) How do you respond to Jesus command to Mary, "Do not cling to me," in v. 17?
- 9) How does the command to Mary make more sense in light of Jesus' explanation about his impending ascension?
- 10) Why is the doctrine of the ascension of Jesus important, and how does it apply to your daily Christian life?

Further study this week: Genesis 2 on the First Garden (Mon); Exodus 25 on the First Ark of the Covenant (Tues); Acts 1 on the ascension of Jesus (Wed); 1 Timothy 3 on the ascension of Jesus (Thurs); Ephesians 4 on the ascension of Jesus (Fri).