

John 20:11f.
ROME GEORGIA
October 3, 1993
(COMMUNION THIS MORNING 1993 & 2016)
October 2, 2016

THE RESURRECTED CHRIST MAY VERY WELL APPEAR QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE PICTURE OF JESUS WE HOLD IN OUR HEART.

John's eyewitness account - Cf. I **John 1:1-4**. **TURN HERE AND READ.**

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Faithfulness of Mary resulted in added blessing of seeing Jesus first -

10 - The disciples looked in the empty tomb, and went home, **but Mary lingered** at the tomb. **11-13** -

MARY'S SORROW WAS EVIDENTLY SO DEEP THAT SHE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT THOSE TO WHOM SHE WAS SPEAKING WERE ANGELS.

ANGELS FREQUENTLY APPEARED IN THE SCRIPTURES IN THE FORM OF MEN. (CF. **GEN. 18-19** ABRAHAM, LOT, SODOMITES).

WE ARE EVEN TOLD THAT

"SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS UNAWARES" **HEB. 13:1-2.**

IT WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNUSUAL FOR SOMEONE TO ENCOUNTER AN ANGEL IN THE FORM OF A HUMAN AND NOT FULLY REALIZE WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE.

BUT THEN MARY TURNED - V. **14** - EMOTIONAL STATE. GREAT INFLUENCE. YET IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT **NO ONE KNEW THE LORD IN HIS RESURRECTED BODY UNTIL HE REVEALED HIMSELF TO THEM!**

DON'T FORGET - **JESUS WAS IN HIS RESURRECTION GLORY.**

Here is another glimpse of the Resurrected Jesus that John shares with us in Revelation.

REV. 1:13-16. And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, **Fear not; I am the first and the last:**

18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Kind of scary ain't it

Here is something else to consider with regards to our glorified bodies in eternity.

From ***In his Image***, p. 33 12/28/2014

C.S. Lewis expressed a similar thought . . . in reference to our glorified state in eternity

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and corruption such as you now meet , if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one of these destinations."

I don't believe that this is the way that Mary saw him – for she thought at first that he must be the gardener. 15

ALSO, EVEN TODAY, THIS IS NOT THE WAY WE NORMALLY THINK ON OUR LORD.

RECOGNITION SCENE - THE GREATEST IN BIBLE IS HERE – *John 20:16-17* read

John 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, *Mary*. She turned herself, and saith unto him, **Rabboni**; which is to say, Master.

a close second would be

"I AM JOSEPH " Cf. **Gen. 42:6-8.///45:1-3** TURN HERE AND ELABORATE.

Gen 42:6 And Joseph *was* the governor over the land, *and he it was* that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him *with* their faces to the earth.

7 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself

strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.

8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

Gen 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, **I am Joseph**; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

"DON'T CLING TO ME"

*"Mary had known Jesus personally as a Man. She had seen miracles happen when He was bodily present. So she concluded that if He was not with her in a visible way, then she could have no hope of blessing. The Lord must correct her thinking. He said, **"Do not cling to Me** simply as a Man in the flesh. **I have not yet ascended to My Father**. When I do return to heaven, the **Holy Spirit will be sent down to the earth**. When He comes, He will reveal Me to your heart in a way you have never known Me before. I will be nearer and dearer to you than was possible during My life here."* bbc

TWO IMPORTANT TRUTHS HERE

John 20:17 "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to **my brethren**, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

1 . PRIOR TO HS DEATH, JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES "FRIENDS" –

JOHN 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: **but I have called you friends**; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

But, from this point onward, he calls them "**brethren**".

Why?

Because Jesus conquered death and sin and the resurrection was testimony to the fact that we are now completely in the

Family of God. The sacrifice of Christ was acceptable to God and sufficient for the redemption of mankind.

Heb. 2:11 For **both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified** are all of one: for which cause **he is not ashamed to call them brethren**,

(them = US – you and me that know the Lord)

It follows suit then that we who are **His brethren** are likewise the **children of God . . .**

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified **Romans 8:17 together.**

2 . **The words Christ used to describe this relationship** - .My Father - your father. My God - your God. Our role in the family - to tell others about the Risen Christ! Our goal as a family here this morning - the remembrance of our RISEN Lord and Savior.

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

1 Jn. 1:3b That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us:** and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

As Regards The Celebration Of The Lord's Supper

“The earliest Christians seemed to get the meaning. Their Eucharist feasts **invariably celebrated the risen Christ**, memorializing not so much the Last Supper as the Easter meals when Jesus shared fish and broke bread with the disciples.

Works of art lining the more than 100 miles of dark corridors in the **Roman Catacombs** vividly illustrate that point. **Among 20,000 frescoes amateurishly painted on those stone walls, not a single death theme or cross appears. Whenever the Eucharist is portrayed, fish, a symbol of life, is always present on the table.**” From a FOOTNOTE: ***In his Image***, p. 69.

BLOOD SIGNIFIES LIFE, NOT DEATH. So TOO, THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS ON THE CROSS, DOES NOT REPRESENT DEATH - BUT LIFE! In your body, at this instant, the blood is feeding and sustaining every cell with its precious nutrients. When blood seeps away, life falters. For the OT saint, the loss of blood could indeed symbolize death - as in the case of Abel.

Gen 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Yet, deep within every Jewish person's consciousness, lays a fundamental association of blood with life.

The Mosaic code given to the Israelites God reiterated the fact that

"The life of a creature is in the blood." **Leviticus 3:17; 7:26-27; 17:11,14; Deut. 12:23.**

The prohibitions regarding the eating of the blood were an even deeper part of the psyche of the Jew than was the command to circumcise. (Acts 15:29 - 4 taboos for gentiles - 2 of which are about blood) p. 67.

Undoubtedly, on the night of the Last Supper, the words of Jesus in John 6:53-37 must have sprung to their mind. On that occasion, shortly after the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus delivered a shocking message to His followers. Thousands deserted Him. "No Jew ingested blood - only savages and the uncircumcised did that. Blood was always poured out before God as an offering, for **life belonged to Him. Yet to those very people Jesus said "drink my blood" Is it any wonder that the Jews bristled and his disciples slunk away?" p. 68.**

"A question looms. Knowing - as he must have known - the offense his words would cause, why did Jesus use them? Why not draw a more reasonable parallel to Jewish sacrifice? If he had said eat my flesh and pour out my blood or eat my flesh and sprinkle my blood, his hearers would not have been offended but then they would not have grasped Jesus intent. Instead he told them **drink it.**

"Jesus spoke as he did not to offend, but to effect a radical transformation in the symbol. Got it said to Noah, if you drink the blood of a lamb, the life of the Lamb interview, don't do it.

Jesus said, and effect, if you drink my blood my life will enter you, do it

Jesus intended or ceremony of the Lord's Supper to include not only remembrance of his past death but also a realization of his present life we cannot live without the nourishment that his life provides."

Quoted from In His Image. P. 68

"The ceremony we call the Lord's Supper (or, the (Eucharist or Communion) formerly traces back to Jesus is last night with the disciples before his crucifixion.

There, I'm in a stuffy room full of this frightened disciples, Jesus first said the words that have been repeated millions of times;

this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many for the Forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26-28."

Jesus commanded his disciples to drink the wine, representing his blood. The offering was not merely poured out but rather taken in, ingested. He repeated those shocking words,

Drink from it all of you. v.27"

Earlier that same evening Jesus had used another metaphor, perhaps to shed light on the meaning of shared blood.

I am the vine you are the branches ,he declared.

if a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 compare John 6:56.

Surrounded by The Vineyard covered Hillside here in Jerusalem, the disciples could more easily comprehend this metaphor. A great Branch disconnected from the nutrients of the line becomes weathered, dry, and dead, useless for anything except kindling. Only when connected to the vine can it grow, prosper, and bear fruit.

Even in the doom-shrouded atmosphere of that night at the meal from which the sacrament derives, the image of Life welled up. **For the disciples the wine was to symbolize His blood that would vitalize them - much as the sap does the Grapevine.**" From *In his Image*, p. 68-9 10/1/2016.

Mary...sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word ([Lk 10:39](#)).

Martha was so focused on serving that she missed a golden opportunity to listen to her Lord. Jesus summarized the actions of the two sisters:

Martha, Martha, you are worried ([merimnao \[word study\]](#) from merizo = to divide - picture of a "divided" mind!) and troubled (turbazo = noise, uproar, disturbance - English "turbid"!) about many things. But **one thing** is needed ([chreia \[word study\]](#)), and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her" ([Lk 10:41](#), [42](#)).

Time spent sitting at the Master's feet will never be taken away from us. Although some fret that such time reduces our ability to serve, the result is actually the opposite. Our devotion, motivation, and understanding of God are deepened causing an increase in the fruit of God's ministry through us.

Our ministry and service must be grounded in and out of our love for Him ([Heb 6:10-note](#), [He 6:11](#), [12-note](#)).