

Study 3 - Week of February 28, 2022

YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THIS NEW DAY!

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. - Lamentations 3:22-23*

Mary went to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark. It sounds like the start of a teacher's day towards the end of winter, but this was more than pre-dawn darkness. The events on Calvary two days earlier cast a deep dark shadow over Mary's heart and life. Now, on the third day, she walks with a heavy heart, in a fog, with little hope. But on that day it becomes clear: God's mercies are new every morning.

Mary had questions that day. A stone needed removing; soldiers were watching; spices weighed her down. It sounds like some of the obstacles that stand in our way and lead us to question: "How?" "What?" "When?" It's been that kind of a year – again. And now we face this time of the year, when the weather is cold and the kids are crazy and our energy is sapped and the responsibilities weigh us down. So, today, stand outside the tomb with Mary and learn again: God's mercies are new every morning.

Mary began that day in the shadow of the cross. This week we begin doing the same. Ashes adorn our foreheads or hands and for sure our hearts. It's that time of the year, a time for lamenting and confessing and repenting. For days like these, the prophet Jeremiah wrote long ago, "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Jesus' resurrection guarantees that promise. And it's true on Saturdays, Sundays, and Spring break days, as well as Mondays and TGIF's and every day in between. God's mercies are new every morning!

Mary heard one word that changed it all for her that day, "Mary." With that one word, her Savior assured her that she was his and he was hers. He assures you of the same at your baptism. Remember that day when your name was spoken and his name was placed on you. You were raised from death to life with Jesus, so that on this day you can be sure his mercies are new.

Mary left the tomb that morning with the news: "I have seen the Lord." You have seen him too. So have the people with whom you are gathered right now. And in a few moments, you get to smile at the precious souls who come before you today and assure them: His mercies are new every morning.

Great is his faithfulness. Have a great new day.

Points to Ponder

Read through John 20:1-23.
What is your favorite part of THAT DAY?

What days or times or responsibilities are most difficult for you?
How can Easter change the way you approach those times?

Share a recent "victory" God granted you recently.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, there are so many things in our world and in our hearts that weigh us down. We need your holiness to cover our sin, your victory to cover our defeat, your strength to overcome our weakness, and your call to give us meaning and purpose. Give us enough struggles and challenges to keep us humble and reliant on you, while giving us enough victories and blessings to fill us with the joy of serving. Amen.

Reflection

Continue to ponder on the thoughts of this study by reading through the following passages at the end of the day or each day throughout the week for encouragement from God's Word.

John 20-21, Psalm 3, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, Ephesians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:56-58