

## **Open our eyes, Lord**

John 20:11-18

April 24, 2011

The disciple who ran to the tomb, but hesitated to enter it, saw nothing once he did go in, and yet, he did see something. He did see someone. He saw Jesus.

Mary's situation is exactly the reverse. She saw Jesus standing there in front of her, but saw nothing! He was there, in the flesh, right in front of her face, but she didn't see him. She thought he was the gardener.

She asked him where the body was. She thought Jesus was dead. She did not yet believe.

But then, in a moment, she did. In a moment, she recognized him. She saw that it was Jesus and she believed.

When did she see him? She recognized Jesus, when he called her by name, when he said, "Mary."

It may take as much for you. It may take as much for you to finally recognize Jesus, there in front of you, there alongside you, alive and with you always. You may finally see him only when he calls you by name, when he says, "Tim."

Do I dare suggest that Jesus will get that personal with me? Do I dare suggest that Jesus will get that personal with you?

I do! I do because Jesus always gets that personal! Jesus is always revealing himself, revealing the wonders and mysteries of God's kingdom, one person at a time, with an attentiveness and sensitivity and compassion as personal and distinctive as the needs of each man and each woman are personal and distinctive.

He challenges Nicodemus to think outside the box, to see not what he can do for God, but what God can do for him.

He offers the Samaritan woman a drink, a drink of life-giving water, and he tells her who she is, and he tells her who he is. He tells her he is the Messiah!

He gives sight to a blind man sitting by the roadside, and the blind man sees what those who have been able to see all their lives cannot. He sees Jesus!

He restores Lazarus to life, and shows Martha and Mary what he means when he says, "I am the resurrection and the life!"

And he comes to Mary in the garden, outside the empty tomb, and asks, "Why are you crying?" And then, he heals her tears and her grief with one word, "Mary."

Then she saw him. She saw him for the same reason all of them saw him, because he came to them, because he knew them, because he cared about them, because he spoke to their need, because he spoke their names. And they did see him because they were not blinded by thinking they already could see, not blinded by thinking they already could see all they needed to see, not blinded by thinking they already did know all they needed to know. Their eyes were open. Their hearts were humble. They were ready to see. And then they did. They saw Jesus!

Jesus will come to you. Jesus knows you. Jesus cares about you. Jesus will speak to your need. Jesus will speak your name. Are your eyes open? Are you ready to see?

Open our eyes, Lord! We want to see Jesus! We want to see Jesus alive, standing before us, standing beside us, calling us by name, inviting us ... into life!