

THE EXCHANGED OWNERSHIP

At the tomb of Jesus the angels asked Mary: (John 20:11-18 NKJV) “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them: “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him”. She spoke with the intensity of love, but yet it was blindness; as if her Lord was a dead corpse, indeed, and could be handed about. “They have taken Him away, “ she said. “Show me where they have laid Him, and I, who loved Him so, will take Him away.” She knew now where they had laid Him, whereas He was the Prince of Life, up-leaping from His rocky couch, bright with the dews of immortal sleep, the Lord of Life, and the Conqueror of Death. Yet, I say, the ownership is changed, for as she turns herself about, she hears a voice, and she see a Presence, and it is Jesus. “Mary!” The old, familiar voice of the dear Lord broke through all her blind unbelief, and her fearful and timid affection; she knew it in a moment, for every sheep knows His voice.

You would know it out on the deep sea, if He said, “Peace, be still”. You would still know it, though you could not hear the sound of any other voice, it might be, through the storm, and the lashing of the tempest. Yes, you would know His voice. And see here, how in a moment, the ownership was changed. She asked for her crucified Lord, that she might take Him away, and take charge of Him, but it was in blind, ignorant unbelief. “Mary!” He will now take charge of her, and keep her always. Here is the blessed Resurrection principle – the ownership of Jesus. It is not now that you keep the faith within you, it is the burning, Holy Spirit of God that keeps the faith bright within you; it is not that you keep the heart clean, and keep the heart strong in faith, giving glory to God, it is the indwelling Lord Himself that keeps you, for the ownership is changed, and with the risen life it is (Gal. 2:20) “no longer I, but Christ lives in me”.

John 20:11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to Him, ^[a] “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord,^[b] and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

Do you know it? Is a fact? Is it a daily experience? Is this ownership a reality? "My beloved is mine? (Song of Sol. 2:16) But there is something better than that, "And I am His"!

"I fell in love with the Nazarene,
This beautiful Nazarene,
Whose Face was lit by a Holy Light,
The fairest these eyes have seen.
Near His side I would live,
With never a veil between;
Since I fell so deep in love
With JESUS, the Nazarene."

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