

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
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**APRIL 17, 2022**

**EASTER IS EVERYTHING**

**JOHN 20:1-18**

The word “**everything**” refers to “**something that is extremely or most important.**” If you believe someone or something is everything, you’re saying that person or that thing is most important in your life.

What or who is your everything? Is it a person or a possession? A career or a car? A pet or a place? Jewell is everything to me. My children and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are everything to me. This church family of 44 years is everything to me. **But above all my Jesus of Easter is EVERYTHING to me.**

Here’s the deal. When your “**everything**” disappears or disintegrates, it’s easy to feel like you have nothing or that you are nothing. That’s how Mary Magdalene felt on the first Easter morning. Mary was from a town called **Magdala** on the coast of the Sea of Galilee. **Luke 8:2** says Jesus cast seven demons out of her. She’s living proof of **John 8:36**: “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*”

Incidentally, the central facts of the Christian faith were primarily witnessed by women – especially the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ. **Women, you matter to God, you matter to this church, and we believe you.**

Mary was among Jesus’ first followers; she was one of the last ones at the crucifixion, and she was part of the initial group gathered at the tomb where Jesus was buried. She was the first to see Him alive and hear His voice. When we read about her in **V-1** we’re given a metaphor for how she’s feeling. Jesus was everything to her because He had brought light to her world. Now that He had died, everything felt dark and dismal.

Here’s the main idea: “**Because Easter is everything, Jesus must be everything to you.**” I see four facts we can apply from this passage.

**I. JESUS IS EVERYTHING BECAUSE HE SEES YOUR SORROW V-11**

The word for “**weeping**” (**V-11**) means she was “**wailing and lamenting**” and referred to constant, unrestrained sobbing. If you were to read the Easter accounts in the gospels, you’d find a wide array of emotions: crying, alarm, bewilderment, trembling and fear. Some of you are dealing with deep sorrow over the loss of a loved one, I know that I am, for Matt, for Lloyd, for Miss Shirley.

Notice how personal her relationship with Jesus is because she says, “my Lord.” (**V-13**)

Because Easter is everything, Jesus must be everything to you.

**II. JESUS IS EVERYTHING BECAUSE HE SEES YOUR SEEKING V-15**

The second question Jesus asks in **verse 15** is, “*Whom are you seeking?*” The word “**whom**” is an interrogative pronoun, written with an acute accent in the original. It’s noteworthy that Jesus asks “**whom**” and not “**what**” are you seeking? Sadly, many of us are seeking something, when we should be looking for Someone. Only Jesus Himself can meet our deepest needs. Mary thinks she’s talking to the gardener until Jesus calls her by name in **verse 16**: “**Mary.**”

**III. JESUS IS EVERYTHING BECAUSE HE SEES YOUR SURRENDER V-16**

All Jesus had to do was speak her name and **verse 16** tells us she immediately turned toward Him. The word “**turned**” means, “**to turn about.**” When she realized it was her Lord, her despair turned to delight, and her sorrow led to surrender. She could only utter one word: “**Rabboni.**”

Because Jesus is alive, He not only knows your pain...He knows you personally... He has plans for your life...and He has a purpose for you. Mary’s sorrow was followed by seeking, which led to surrender, and ended with serving.

**IV. JESUS IS EVERYTHING BECAUSE HE SEES YOUR SERVICE Vs. 17-18**

If you follow Jesus your life won’t be perfect, but it will always have meaning. Mary wanted to sit and soak up her time with the Savior, but Jesus had a task for her. Notice how the Resurrection reframes everything.

- ◆ **New relationship.**
- ◆ **New relatives.**
- ◆ **New responsibility.**

If you’re not yet a Christ-follower, can I urge you to become one today? It’s not enough to just know some truth or just feel some Easter emotions. You must make a decision to believe and receive.

Have you ever been saved from your sins? You may not be oppressed by the power of seven demons, but maybe you have your own “demons” you’re battling. Are you tired of living in darkness and ready to enter the light? The stakes are high.

Listen to me this morning dear friend - “*Jesus walked out of His grave so He could walk into your life.*” Will you let Jesus do that today? The Bible says, “*whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” Will you pray this simple prayer with me? Dear Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner I need you in my life as my Saviour and Friend. I am sorry for my sins and rejecting you, but today I repent of my sins and want to make you my Lord and Saviour. Amen and Amen!