



Dear Precious Friend,

November-December, 2016

Progressive Revelation – Mary At The Tomb

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then I will know even as also I am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. *I Corinthians 13:11-13*

When divine love is awakened, we are compelled to put away childish things in order to pursue Him until we find Him face to face. When we love, we are never satisfied with knowing in part. We must know as we are known. This is the nature of divine love.

To know Christ more and more completely is to die to self. His wholeness can be terrifying and yet it is what we need to become whole ourselves. To love Him in part is safe. We are still in control, still secure on earth, with all our earthly desires and loves. When the in part is done away with, when the veil upon our heart is removed, we are given eyes to see. When we see Him, we shall be as He is. To know Him and to love Him is to become as He is.

There is a powerful progressive revelation in John 20 that takes us from knowing in part to knowing the whole, the perfect. We can all partake of this greater fullness of relationship as we wait upon the Lord until He comes, even as Mary Magdalene did at the tomb. Mary was not satisfied with knowing Yeshua in part, even after His demise. Her heart cried out for more. Therefore, Mary was compelled to get to the tomb very early and seeing the stone removed, she immediately ran to Peter and John to tell them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him."

There are many who would stop at this news, but Peter and John who walked intimately with Yeshua ran to the tomb to investigate more. John the beloved outruns Peter, stoops in, sees the linen clothing, but doesn't go inside. Peter arrives, enters the tomb where he sees not only the linen clothes, but also the napkin that was wrapped around Yeshua's head folded by itself. Then John enters the tomb himself and believes. Both of them receive powerful evidence of the resurrection, but only in part. Both of them go home again. There are many who have stopped their search there as well, even "gone home" after receiving partial knowledge of the Lord. There are so many who remain satisfied with good sermons and theology, with conferences, successful ministry, a level of revelation, but they stop there.

Even Peter and John, who were His closest and most intimate disciples, went back to business as usual. In fact Peter went back to fishing and drew the other disoriented disciples with him. They fished all night but they caught nothing for Jesus had already called them to become fishers of men. In their disillusionment, they returned to "fishing in the wrong sea."

But Mary could not go back to her old life. She could not "go home" or return to business as usual. Yeshua was her home. Mary's only and final destination now was to see Him again.

But Mary stood outside the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher, And sees two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say to her, Woman, why are you weeping? She says to them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him." *John 20:11-13*

Mary was seeking more than angels, more than evidence of Yeshua's resurrection, more than a part of Him. She was looking for Yeshua Himself! She was looking for the One her soul loved!

As Mary looks into the sepulcher, she sees the two angels sitting, one at the head and one at the feet of where Yeshua's body had lain. Suddenly there is a powerful revelation given to Mary that we all are in need of, but we must first stoop down low and look into the tomb, seeking the One our soul desires even as she did, in order to receive it.

And you will make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half will be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And you will make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work will you make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat will you make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And you will put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark you will put the testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will commune with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel. *Exodus 25:17-22*

The angels, who sit one at the head and the other at feet of where Jesus lay, have come to reveal to Mary that Jesus is the everlasting Mercy Seat and the place where God communes with us. They prepare Mary for an encounter with the One who communes between the two cherubim. Mary is one of scripture's finest examples of a tenacious seeking heart that provides the motivation for all who would also tarry, stoop down low and look into the sepulcher in order to have a similar encounter with the Mercy Seat not made by hands.

Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation (gk. mercy seat) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; *Romans 3:25*

Yeshua knows Mary's heart. He comes to commune with her "between the two cherubim." Finally, He calls Mary by name and her eyes are opened to know Him. Rabboni, she cries! He orders her not to touch Him because He hasn't yet ascended to the Father. It seems that He has come back to the tomb on His way to the Father, in order to reveal Himself to Mary and the disciples who are disoriented and lost without their Master. He commands Mary not to cling to Him as before, for He is ushering in a new dispensation. He has rent the veil forever. He is ascending to the Father so that now and forevermore we will all be able to approach His throne of grace to find everlasting mercy for He is our Mercy Seat, not made by hands.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Heb. 4:14-16*

Good News from Israel and Greece:

I attended a Global Gathering of 4000 believers from the nations where I witnessed a historic level of reconciliation between Jews, Arabs and the nations that I have never seen before. It inspired me to believe for the same thing to take place regarding the deep historic rift that took place between Jews and Greeks and to believe for true John 17 unity and revival among us all in this Bible land region. I have participated several mornings a week in prayer meetings and teachings at Revive Israel and I have been refreshed and strengthened. I also shared the vision for the Jewish-Greek Bridge one of those mornings for the staff and visitors. Please pray for the next steps to unfold as I return to Greece soon to gather leaders, evangelize and see God's glory manifested in His New Covenant cities.

Several of the new believers that I brought to our conference are now attending churches in Greece. This is wonderful fruit that is remaining to the glory of God the Father.

In the next few months, I will be traveling to the United States to reconnect with many of you. Please let me know if you would like to meet with me and/or have me share in your gatherings the messages from the Lord that are burning in my heart. Please email me your contact information and I will contact you to set a date. I would love to see you face to face and especially to thank you for all your faithful prayers and support!

May you be blessed with the tangible presence of the Lord and may He visit you, as He did Mary, as the Mercy Seat not made by hands.

Your friend in Yeshua,

Greta