

April 30, read Mark 16

The Lord is living! He has conquered death! "Go, tell His disciples and Peter." And Peter.

That command of the angel, coupled with Christ's post-resurrection appearances to Mary Magdalene, Peter, James and Paul is highly significant. The Gospels and I Corinthians 15:58 report He showed Himself on several occasions to groups. Noteworthy, however, is the fact that Jesus singled out certain individuals for a private appointment. How like our loving Lord to reach out to those persons who probably felt more need of Him than all the rest.

Mary Magdalene had once been possessed by seven demons. Life for her began when Jesus released her from Satan's hold: Naturally, she felt devastated by her Friend's death. He rewarded her love with a personal appearance.

James had rejected his brother Jesus and His ministry (John 7:5). Receiving the crucified Lord's special attention apparently resulted in his conversion. Paul with holy zeal persecuted Christ and His church, but he repented when the Savior met him on the road to Damascus.

And Peter had denied Him with oaths. The resurrected Master's visit to him healed his guilt and shame and provided the early church with a valiant spokesman.

Those acts of our Savior encourage us. They spell out clearly that no matter how deeply we may sink into sin, God's love and forgiveness can reach even deeper and elevate us to a place of high service.

Think: When you've sinned, how do you expect God to react? Like a stern judge? A vindictive prosecutor? A long-suffering father? Why?

Pray: Lord, thank You that though I stray from You, You continue to seek fellowship with me.