



easter

AT THE CHAPEL

The Chapel
Easter Sunday
Dave Gustavsen
April 20, 2025

LIFE IS HARD, BUT CHRIST IS RISEN

John 20:11-18

OPENER: "Life is hard, but Christ is risen." How has this truth played out in your own life experiences?

1. **Read John 20:11-18.** What stands out to you most in this interaction between Jesus and Mary?
2. Jesus was present in the garden the whole time Mary was weeping, even though she didn't realize it (vv. 14-15). Can you think of a time when you felt alone, but later saw that God was with you? How does this story encourage you during hard times?
3. Jesus said Mary's name – and she knew it was Him (v. 16). John 10:3 says the Good Shepherd "calls his own sheep by name." Reflect on the personal nature of God's call in your life. When have you felt personally known by God?
4. In verse 17, Jesus calls His disciples – who had abandoned him – as "my brothers." What does this reveal about Jesus' character and his approach to our failures? How does this impact your understanding of God's grace?
5. **Mary's response was, "Rabboni!" (My Teacher).** What does it mean for you to call Jesus "Teacher" or "Lord" right now in your life?
6. Compare Mary at the beginning of the passage (v. 11) to the end (v. 18). What changed? How does the resurrection empower us to move from grief to bold faith & witness?

LIVE IT OUT:

- How does the truth that Christ is risen help you face the hardest parts of your life right now?
- Mary ran to tell others, "I have seen the Lord!" Who in your life needs to hear that from you this week? How can you share it with them?