



The Gospel According to John - Video 15

Thoughts from Rachel Hylton on the Reading for Week of April 20: John 20:1-20:31

view the video at www.vimeo.com/fbcknox/gatjweek15

Video Transcript:



This passage was inspiring to me--actually, the whole book of John was inspiring to me, through the fact that it doesn't go into the birth of Christ like Matthew and Luke do, it talks more about the stories and miracles that Jesus performed. And, as a graduate student who's, you know, almost ready to start my career, it was a wonderful Gospel to go back and read through.

I have read the book of John before, back when I was going from my undergraduate career to where I am now in the graduate program, I was kind of struggling, trying

to figure out where my life was going. I wasn't happy with the career that I had at the time, and going back this time, [because] I had used John to get through that hard point, it really spoke more to me, going back and seeing the passages that I had highlighted that really spoke to me during the time that I was really searching for what I wanted out of life. And [I realized] how those passages really helped me *then*, but how they mean something different to me *now*. And how it just kind of keeps building more upon itself. And it's just such a beautiful thing to see that one passage of scripture means something to you, you know, a year or so ago, and it means something completely different to you know. But it's the beauty of seeing how those words can just completely transform you, and how you think, and what direction you're taking in life.

Something that I picked up on *this* time around when I read John chapter 20, that I *didn't* pick up on prior, was Mary Magdalene and what she was going through during the chapter. *Before* I had focused on, you know, Christ, He *died*, and here He is *alive*, and we can all have eternal salvation. But reading through it this time, praying and studying about it, Mary Magdalene and her situation really, you know, took me, and meant something to me, as far as, she's so caught up in the situation, you know, Jesus is dead, and she's going back to the tomb to put spices and stuff on His body, and she can't find Him. And at the time she's so overwhelmed, so caught up in the situation that she doesn't realize that Jesus is standing in front of her, and He's speaking to her. And I think that relates to *us*, as in, when we *go through* these trials and tribulations, a lot of times we wonder, "Where is God? Why isn't He speaking to me?" And a lot of times He's using *others* to speak *for Him* to us, but we just don't realize it.

I think that it's wonderful that Jesus showed Himself to Mary Magdalene *first*, and I think it speaks to the *character* more throughout His whole life, as in, Jesus, and who He chose to *socialize* with. He didn't judge anyone, He was a friend to everyone, and it really speaks volumes, and it's something I picked up on, as I read through John again this time, was that, it *didn't* matter *who* you were, or *what* your social class was. You know, Jesus was there for *everyone*.