



What Happens When a Popular Sanguine Encounters the Risen Christ?  
**A Close Encounter with Living Hope**

Lesson 3

**Do We Prove the Resurrection or Does the Resurrection Prove Us?**

- God uses the appearances of the Risen Lord to **prove** the **FACTS** of the Resurrection! *Acts 1:1-3*

These are Close Encounters of the **REAL KIND!**

- God also uses the appearances of the Risen Lord to **prove** our **FAITH** in the Resurrection! *John 20:28-29*

These are Close Encounters with the **RISEN LORD!**

**1. A COMPASSIONATE FOLLOWER: Mary Was a Devoted but DISCOURAGED Disciple!**

1. Her **DEVOTION** as a follower of Jesus was very relational and compassionate!
  - Mary's devotion was due to her **radical deliverance**. *Luke 8:1-2*
  - Mary's devotion was demonstrated by her **personal service**. *Mark 15:41; Luke 8:2*
2. Her **DISCOURAGEMENT** as a follower of Jesus was very relational and compassionate!
  - Mary's discouragement was due to **His cross death**. *John 19:25*
  - Mary's discouragement was due to **His sealed tomb**. *Luke 23:53-24:1; Mark 16:1-4*
3. Her **DEDICATION** as a follower of Jesus was very relational and compassionate!
  - She knew the stone was there—yet **WENT ANYWAY!** *Mark 16:1-3*
  - She knew body was gone—yet **WENT BACK ANYWAY!** *John 20:1-11*
  - She knew all this and **still tried** to retrieve the body! *John 20:12-15*

**Here Is a Woman WITHOUT HOPE and ALL ALONE in the World!**

**2. A CONVICTING ENCOUNTER: Mary Is Asked the Obvious for a PURPOSE!**

1. The Angels ask the obvious: **“Woman, WHY are you weeping?”**
2. “The Gardener” asks the obvious again, but for a revealing purpose: **“Woman, why are you weeping? WHO are you seeking?”**
3. **WHERE** is your hope? Mary was looking for a **dead body**, but found a **LIVING LORD!** *John 20:16-18*

**When Jesus said, “MARY! she never thought about a DEAD BODY again!**

Mary Is ASKED the OBVIOUS for a PURPOSE		
MARY	◀◀◀ OBVIOUS	ANGELS/JESUS
My Lord Is dead. His body is missing. A Dead Body.	<b>WHY</b> are you <b>WEeping</b> ? <b>WHOM</b> are you <b>SEEKING</b> ?	The Lord is alive! His body is risen! A Living Lord!
HOPE IS DEAD!	PURPOSE ▶▶▶	HOPE IS ALIVE!

### 3. A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE COMPASSIONATE KIND: The Living Lord with a Living Hope!

#### WHY Are YOU Weeping?

1. The Separation of Death? We Have a **LIVING HOPE!** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
2. The Sorrow of Discouragement? We Have a **REJOICING HOPE!** Romans 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 15:13-19

**YES, We Should Weep, but NOT "as Others Who Have NO Hope"!**

#### WHOM Are YOU Seeking?

1. A Dead Body or a **LIVING LORD?** Life!
2. A Slain Martyr or a **RISEN SAVIOR?** Love!
3. A Mortal Man or a **REIGNING KING?** Lordship!



#### ➤ WHAT Is Your **IMMOVABLE STONE** This Morning?

**NO HOPE** in moving it? **NO HOPE** in changing it? **NO HOPE** in overcoming it?

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#### ➤ WHO or WHAT Are You **CLINGING TO** or **HANGING ON TO** for Hope?

*Is it worldly or heavenly? Is it dead or alive? Is it romantic & emotional or real & supernatural?  
Is it human & weak or divine & sovereign?*

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#### ➤ HAVE You Been **TRANSFORMED** by a **CLOSE ENCOUNTER** of the Real Kind with the Living Hope of a Living Lord?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

#### ➤ WHAT Is Your **NEXT STEP** to **STOP CLINGING** to **FALSE HOPES** and **START WORSHIPPING** the **LIVING LORD**?

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