



**Community Bible Experience: New Testament**  
**A Woman of Mystery: Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18)**  
 By Pastor David Hillis, 5 March 2017

**BIG IDEA:** Fear and loss are lost in the face of Jesus.

**Mary's Most Meaningful Moments** (John 19:25; Mark 16:1-2; John 20:1-2, 10-16)

**Fear Is Lost In The Face Of Jesus**

The Bible says there are two kinds of fear:

1. A respectful, reverential fear of God, which is a good thing; the Bible says it leads to wisdom, peace, rest and contentment. (Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 19:23)
2. A feeling of anxiety or alarm, terror or panic, which is not good but is taken away *by* God. (Psalm 34:4)
  - One comes from being *with* God; the other comes from being *without* God.
  - One draws you *closer* to God; the other pushes you away from God.
  - One causes us to be rational and wise, the other causes us to be irrational and say and do dumb things.
  - One we go looking for, to find what we want; the other comes looking for us.
  - One is life giving; the other is life taking and destructive.

**Loss Is Lost In The Face Of Jesus**

There are three kinds of loss that we experience:

1. Loss of stuff, possessions;
2. Loss of relationships;
3. Loss of faith or trust.
  - While grief is our built-in God-given response to loss for the broken world we live in, there is nothing *wrong* with it. Even Jesus experienced grief though loss.

- In our lives, God has a way of turning around our grief when we fill those feelings of loss with His presence. (Psalm 34:15-19; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ; Revelation 21:4)

**NEXT STEP:**

*Are there any feelings of fear and loss that I want lost in God's presence today?"*

**FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

1. Take a moment to re-read this crucial encounter Mary Magdalene had with Jesus in John 20, reading it as if you were Mary. How does this story impact you? Why?
2. Take some time this week to be thoughtful about the fears and feelings of loss in your life today. Write them down. What are they? How long have they been there? Have they held on longer than you would have anticipated? What if you were to resolve yourself to get lost in the presence of Jesus?
3. Read the final week's readings as part of the Community Bible Experience. As you read, find yourself in the story — how your life and experiences match what you are reading.
4. As you do your readings, consider these 5 questions (which will be the 5 questions everyone shares in their book clubs next week):
  1. What's something you noticed for the first time?
  2. What questions did you have?
  3. Was there anything that bothered you?
  4. What did you learn about loving God?
  5. What did you learn about loving others?