

“Mary, Mary, At First Contrary” Part 4 John 20:17-18

God gives each Church Age believer his own graciously provided supernatural equipment for the purpose of understanding and learning biblical truth and thereby, living successfully while involved in the spiritual warfare carried over from the pre-historic angelic dispute.

And by His grace, God has also provided the completed canon of Scripture, i.e. the mind of Christ and He has authorized the local church as His classroom and given the church the gift of pastor-teacher to communicate biblical truth its historical background, compiling categories of Bible doctrine through exegetical study.

As believers in Jesus Christ choose to move into fleshly binges, they have a tendency to begin to think and then act similarly to unbelievers.

When any believer rejects the world’s only true source of happiness, what he desires most quickly eludes him.

This world is divided into two kinds of people: unhappy unbelievers, who haven’t accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and potentially very happy believers who have trusted Him with their lives.

In that context, ‘carrying your cross’ represents giving up the greatest things in life to include a fine loving family if necessary because of your quest for the Word of God; it’s simply putting biblical truth before anything or anyone else.

So remember, when you choose to make biblical truth your first priority in life, even those closest to you will often criticize you for it but when considering the cost, always remember that this is the only road to true and lasting happiness with the Lord Jesus Christ!

So, to “lose your life” means to put your quest for learning the mind of Christ before anything else and that’s when you’ll lose your life in that sense.

This happens when biblical truth becomes your first priority, not what you love in this life and when you become identified with the Living and written Word of God, don’t be surprised when virtually everyone looks unfavorably at you to some extent in opposition because you are now continuing in Jesus’ Word and therefore are one of His true disciples indeed just as He said.

Emotion and unbelief blind our eyes to the Lord’s presence in our lives.

By application, once we encounter the empty tomb for ourselves, we are not to simply linger at it as wonderful as it is; we are to go and proclaim to the world what we have seen and now know to be true!

DO WE HAVE ANY PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION?

1. To this day, we have an undisputed empty tomb and a missing body.
2. The disciples’ amazing transformation from utter depression to ultimate hope in just three days!
3. When the leader of a cult dies, the movement soon follows and yet Christianity is 2,000 years old and still going strong.
4. Our own personal testimonies of our Lord’s undeniable influence on us.

Faith is related to space, time, evidence and careful objective examination it’s not something conjured up from the twilight zone.

So, to the arrogant self-absorbed unbeliever, you are irrational because you believe something in spite of any real, measurable, solid evidence to support it.

The Gospel is consistent with evidence, not proved by evidence.

We should always remember the close relationship between our faith and the conclusive evidence that we have considered behind it.

Faith is not blind acceptance in spite of the facts, it's actually intellectual ascent based on the facts.

Biblical orientation to life liberates all of us.

If the Lord Jesus is going to separate Mary from hugging Him, He must give her something to do to occupy her and with that, her life now has great purpose even beyond this physical expression of her love for her Teacher.