

“Jesus is Dead ... April Fools!!”

Based on John 20:11-18 (NIV)
April 1, 2018 (Easter Sunday)
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

John 20:10-13a

11 Now Mary (Magdalene) stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13a They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

† **Jesus taught that he had to die in order to rise from the dead.**

† **Does the pain I experienced in life make me bitter or make me better toward being used for God's ultimate purpose for my life.**

John 20:13b-16

13b "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

† **The resurrection of Jesus was a joke on those in power at the time.**

† **Jesus only revealed himself to believers.**

John 20:17-18

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

† **God is in the business of doing what sounds foolish through others.**

† **God chooses me, no matter how foolish it seems, for something important.**

† **As Christians, we are often thought of as fools.**
- **Do to others what I would have them do to me.**
- **Love my neighbor as myself.**
- **Love my enemies.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† When have I felt like a fool?

† What pain have I experienced because I did not listen?
- To others?
- To God?

† What “foolish” thing has God called me to do in my life?

† What “foolish” thing is God calling me to do this week? Year?