

The Exchanger

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The Mission of
FBCWR:
**Connecting People
to God's Life-
Changing Power**

**We've Got
Connections!**

*And the LORD opened
the servant's eyes and
he saw; and behold, the
mountain was full of
horses and chariots of
fire all around Elisha.*
2 Kings 6:17

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Searching for Jesus

John 20:14-16 - When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!", which means, Teacher.

This passage describes a stunning historic moment - the first human encounter with the risen Lord Jesus. By the end of this meeting we are uplifted by the happy reunion. Yet the irony at first is thick. Mary is so caught up in sadness that she doesn't realize she is talking with the One she considers hopelessly lost. It would almost be comical until I realize I would be chuckling at myself as well. How often my reactions to life are just like Mary's? It's not overstatement to say this scenario has been duplicated by every human who has ever walked the planet. Do you experience some déjà vu when you read Mary's story? Ever been frustrated, sad, angry, lonely, bored or depressed and suddenly realized THE Solution is right in front of you?

Emotions are good and beautiful. They add color and dimension to life.

Though tainted by sin, they are a knock off of God's attributes, since we're created after His specs. Yet if emotions are not informed by truth, they betray our judgment and loosen our grip on reality.

In Good Company

It is very common for people who love God to *feel* detached from Him and alone. Elijah was depressed to the brink of suicide. We would say he was totally stressed out after a huge confrontation with the evil Queen Jezebel. He had won a battle with the Queen but he feared he was about to lose the war. He surmised he was the only person of his time serving the Lord. The Lord told him his estimate was way off. Elijah was far from alone—there were 7000 people who had remained true to God in that pagan society. Oops.

We have His promises though - He's never disengaged or distant. He never leaves our side or turns His back. So we need to develop the ability to practice His presence, especially in the dark.

So this Easter let the hope and power of the risen Jesus soak deep into your being, penetrating thoughts and those squirrely emotions. God delights in trumping appearances. With Him close by, it's never as dark as it appears.

-Joe Fornear

