

Scripture        John 20:1-18  
Singing         117:1-4 – 240:1, 2, 5 – 51:1-3 – 421:4, 5, 6

Observations to ponder ...

- The risen Shepherd instantly resumed His task of shepherding
- His 1<sup>st</sup> appearance also became His first message: John 20:11-18
  - why was Jesus so special to Mary Magdalene?
  - how was it evident that Mary was His disciple?
  - why was she not allowed to touch Him? (Matt 28:9)

**FIRST MESSAGE OF THE RISEN LORD**

I. stunning address    II. The stunning content

**I. THE STUNNING ADDRESS OF JESUS' FIRST PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIS DISCIPLES**

A. Consider to whom He is sending His first message

1. Group of men who all failed to be His friend (Prov. 17:17)

2. But note *how* Jesus addressed them in His *first* communication

a. by what He didn't call them or say to them

b. by what He did call them or say to them

*"...for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren"  
Hebrew 2:11*

B. Beloved fellow believers, do you hear what Jesus calls **you**?

1. What are believers?

2. Hear what Jesus call you: **My brethren!**

a. consider Who He is that *calls Himself your Brother!*

**II. HIS FIRST PERSONAL MESSAGE ALSO INCLUDES A 'STUNNING REVELATION'**

A. The stunning revelation is *that God is His and their Father*

1. This is not an entirely *new revelation*

a. His ministry majored on *revealing God as Father* (John 17:3, 4, 6)

b. His ministry also continually revealed God as their God

B. But what is new and comforting in this personal message?

1. First that He is going **to ascend** to His God and His Father

a. Twice Jesus referred to *His ascension* (John 3:13; 6:62)

b. Yet immediately upon resurrection, He reveals it clearly

c. Though the comfort of this revelation undoubtedly escaped them let it not to escape us, brethren!

- it is your Elder Brother that is ascending to God!
- it is your Elder Brother Who is your advocate in heaven!
- it is your Elder Brother Who is preparing a place of you!

2. Secondly that He ascends to **your Father and your God**

a. He didn't say **our Father and God** as in the Lord's Prayer

- we share the same Father and God with Him but *not in the same way*

b. Yet how comforting this truth: *we are both related to same Father and same God*

**Parting questions ...**

A. Are you struggling with the same unbelief as disciples did? (18b)

B. Will you who can't take comfort of His words, *come and see?* (John 1:46)

**The Easter story ends not with a funeral feeling  
but in a Gospel festivity of the glad tidings.  
THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED!**

**Now the God of peace brought again from the dead the Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep.  
To God be all glory for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**(Heb. 13:21)**