

# Two Gardeners, Two Adams, One New World

John 20:1–18

*An Expository Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing*

## Big Idea

Because the Last Adam stands in the garden again, we can trust Him to bring new creation life into our broken lives.

## I. In the Resurrection Garden, God Causes Hope to Rise Out of the Darkness (vv. 1–10)

- “On the first day of the week” echoes Genesis 1—God is beginning again.
  - Mary comes to the tomb “while it was still dark”—not just morning darkness, but the darkness of grief and confusion.
  - The stone is rolled away—not to let Jesus out, but to let witnesses in.
  - The folded grave clothes show order, not chaos; this is not robbery, but resurrection.
  - John “saw and believed,” even without full understanding.
  - God often begins His greatest work before His people can see or understand it.
  - When it still looks dark, God is already bringing the dawn.
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## II. In the Resurrection Garden, the Gardener Calls Us by Name Into New Life (vv. 11–16)

- Mary remains in her grief. Her tears echo the sorrow that entered the world in Eden.
- She mistakes Jesus for the gardener. She is wrong in one way and right in a deeper way.
- Adam failed as the keeper of the first garden. Christ stands as the keeper of the new one.
- Jesus speaks one word, “Mary.” That single word turns despair into joy.
- Christ calls His sheep by name. He reveals Himself before we ever recognize Him.


- If you belong to Christ, you are not forgotten. He knows your name and calls you into new creation life.
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### III. From the Resurrection Garden, the Gardener Sends Us to Live as Witnesses of His New World (vv. 17–18)


- Jesus tells Mary not to cling to Him. He is not rejecting her. He is drawing her into something greater.
  - He is returning to the Father and will be with His people through the Holy Spirit.
  - “My Father and your Father.” The distance created in Eden is beginning to be undone.
  - Mary becomes the first human witness of the resurrection.
  - In the first garden, a lie spread through a woman brought death. In this garden, the truth spread through a woman brings life.
  - Christ sends His people into the world to say, “I have seen the Lord.”
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#### Mount Gilead Baptist Church

2864 S. Brannon Stand Rd, Dothan, AL 36305

 (334) 792-4842

 YouTube: @mountgilead2065

 Facebook: /mgbcdothan

 [www.mgbcdothan.com](http://www.mgbcdothan.com)