

John 20:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

Analysis

Woman, why weepest thou? (Γύναι, τί κλαίεις; Gynai, ti klaieis)—the angels' question (v.12 identifies them) isn't insensitive but designed to shift Mary's focus from grief to recognition. The same question Jesus will ask (v.15), showing divine coordination. **Because they have taken away my Lord** (ὅτι ἤραν τὸν κύριόν μου, hoti ēran ton kyrion mou)—her possessive 'my Lord' reveals intimate relationship, not mere discipleship.

And I know not where they have laid him (καὶ οὐκ οἶδα ποῦ ἔθηκαν αὐτόν, kai ouk oida pou ethēkan auton)—her focus remains on the body's location, still assuming theft. She addresses angels as casually as gardeners, grief eclipsing wonder. The repetition from v.2 shows her obsession: all she can think about is finding the body. This single-minded devotion, though misdirected in its assumption, prepares her to recognize the Shepherd's voice (10:3-4).

Historical Context

Angelic appearances at tombs (v.12) follow OT patterns (Genesis 18, Judges 13) where divine messengers guide interpretation of events. White garments signify heavenly origin. That Mary doesn't react with fear to angels shows grief's consuming power—or suggests she doesn't yet recognize them as angels, seeing only 'two men' (Luke 24:4). Her repeated concern about the body's location reflects burial customs requiring proper treatment of the dead.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does grief sometimes blind us to supernatural realities (angels) right in front of us?
2. What does Mary's possessive 'my Lord' reveal about the nature of saving faith versus mere belief in facts?
3. How does God use repeated questions ('Why wepest thou?') to prepare us for paradigm-shifting revelation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λέγει	αὐτόν	ἐκεῖνοι	Γύναι	τί	κλαίεις	λέγει	
And	She saith	him	they	Woman	why	weepest thou	She saith	
G2532	G3004	G846	G1565	G1135	G5101	G2799	G3004	
αὐτόν	ὅτι	Ἄραν		τὸν	κύριόν	μου	καὶ	οὐκ
him	Because	they have taken away		G3588	Lord	my	And	not
G846	G3754	G142		G2962	G3450	G2532	G3756	
οἶδα	ποῦ	ἔθηκαν	αὐτόν					
I know	where	they have laid	him					
G1492	G4226	G5087	G846					

Additional Cross-References

John 20:15 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why wepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if

thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

John 20:2 (References Lord): Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

John 2:4 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

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