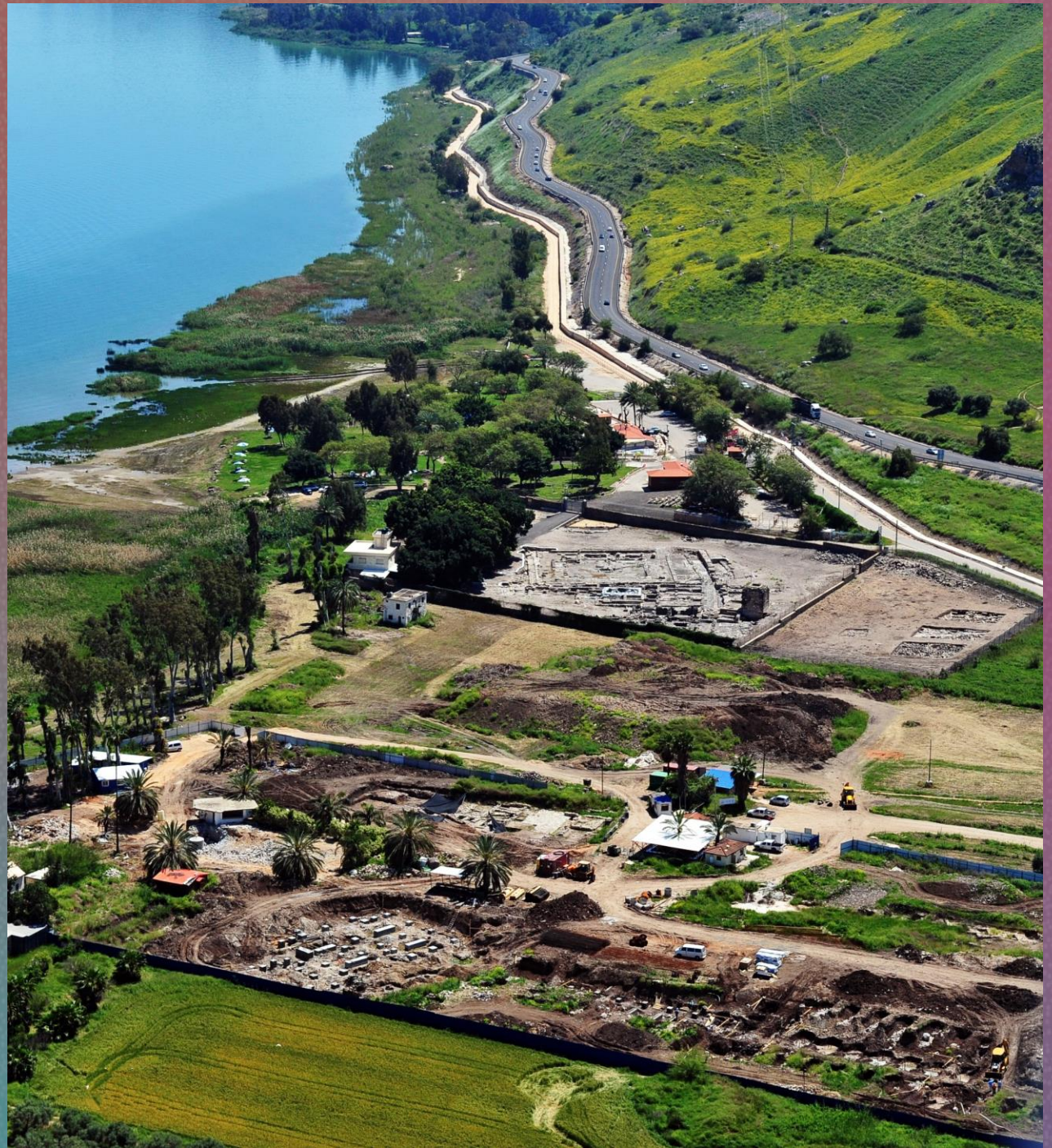


EASTER SUNDAY

I Have Seen the Lord

John 20:1-18

Magdala – Modern Day *(Wikipedia)*



1. When life seems to be a dead end, keep trusting God for a **surprise beginning**.

A. Mary Magdalene's life was at a dead end before Jesus:

- Lk. 8:2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, **from whom seven demons had gone out**, (NAU)

B. How do you explain her **surprise beginning**?

- Future wo a past.
- 1st eye witness;
- 1st evangelist; V20:17-18
 - Women in 1st century.
 - Joel 2:28, Acts 2:18
- She **lingered for answers**. v20:10

C. How do you explain Jesus' **surprise ending**?

- Why not just **heal the wounds**?
 - Rom 6:9, John 10:9
- Resurrection – God's "**proof**" that death is not the end for followers of Jesus.



2. *When my thinking is **shaped by a false assumption**, I often cannot hear what Jesus is saying - until the false assumption “dies.”*

A. *How did Mary miss:*

- *2 angels? 20:11-12*
- *Jesus for a gardener? V15*
- *Jesus' voice? V15*

B. *Not fear. Not grief. False assumption.*

- *False – “**Jesus' body has been stolen.**”*
- ***BC of her false assumption – she missed ...***

C. *Is a false assumption about Jesus keeping you from believing in Jesus?*

- *Is a false assumption about who you are in Christ keeping you from experiencing the fullness of life He died to bring you?*

3. *Mary Magdalene's "I have seen the Lord" has been changing lives for 2000+ years. **Changed lives** is the "proof" of an historical event that is still at work today. Have you responded to Jesus' call of your name?*

- *Jn. 20:17-18 Jesus said to her, "... **go to My brethren** and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "**I have seen the Lord**," and that He had said these things to her.*
- *Acts 2:38-39 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**."³⁹ "For the **promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off**, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."*

- *Call to Action:*
 - A. What assumptions are you bringing into your pain, grief, or disappointment that may be keeping you from seeing Jesus clearly?*
 - B. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any false assumptions you may be holding about Jesus, about yourself, or your life-circumstances, that are keeping you from knowing the presence of Jesus in your life.*
 - C. If you are ready, will you release your false assumptions and respond to the living Christ who stands ready to receive you today?*