

GOSPEL PEARLS

Unsuitable

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It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.' But Mary was standing outside near the tomb, weeping. Then, as she wept, she stooped to look inside, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet. They said, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' 'They have taken

my Lord away,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' As she said this she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him.' Jesus said, 'Mary!' She turned round then and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbuni!' -- which means Master. Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to the brothers, and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' So Mary of Magdala told the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and that he had said these things to her. (John 20: 1.11-18)

Mary Magdalene does not recognize the risen Jesus until she hears herself called by her own name. From the great joy of meeting her Savior, Mary Magdalene rushes to tell others that He had indeed risen from the dead. It should be noted that, at that time in history, a woman's word was scarcely taken into consideration, so much so that women could not even testify before judges. For the most important and delicate tasks, God chooses those who society considers "unsuitable": the poor and imperfect. In other words, God chooses the humble to carry out His work. Tonight, during our examination of conscience, may we ask ourselves if today we managed to trust Jesus completely, to the point of not being afraid of doing His will.