



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool  
5051 McCarty Road  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
www.bethanysaginaw.com  
Phone: 989-793-9579



You're invited to our free, annual Fiesta Night! Friday, May 1st, 6:00 pm

## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### His Rising is Not a Fish Story - April 19, 2015

*Have you lost something you feel is gone forever? Jesus will surprise you.*

[Online Version & Archive](#)

I think Joe Richardson has a good idea of how Mary Magdalene might have felt early Easter morning. Remember how a broken Mary went to the tomb to finish the burial process for Jesus' body? But learning that his body was gone, she broke down even further, devastated by the thought that she wouldn't even get a chance to pay her last respects.

Which is similar to how Richardson felt when he lost his class ring in Lake Sam Rayburn, Texas. I don't even know if he tried to search for it at all. It was a hopeless situation.

But 21 years later a fisherman hooked an 8-pound bass. Inside that fish was that class ring with Richardson's name engraved on it. After some searching on the internet, the fisherman was able to return that ring to Richardson. "My first reaction was—you gotta be kidding," explained Richardson.

Jesus was not kidding when he told his followers that he would be killed and then rise back to life ([Luke 9:22](#)). Even though this was the necessary price to satisfy God's just anger against sinners, Mary was letting her human experience override these facts of faith. She felt she would never see Jesus again.

Have you, like Richardson, lost something you expect is gone forever? And are you, like Mary, letting your human experience override the facts of faith that Jesus has given us? Remember that Jesus promises that no matter what we lose in the process of following him, we will in the end receive even more ([Luke 12:28-34](#); [Matthew 6:19-21](#)).

Mary thought she lost much more than a cherished ring. Yes, she lost her cherished teacher into death, but then she was given a Risen Savior.

Jesus lived, died and rose back to life to be your Savior. So you too are given the promise. By clinging through faith to the Risen Jesus, you already have more than you could ever lose! And this is not a fish story.

John 20:11-18 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her. <sup>ESV</sup>

*This Viewpoint is an adaptation of the chapel service shared with the Preschool during the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>.*

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[One that didn't get away yields long-lost ring](#) @ US News

To become a recipient of Viewpoints, please email [mike.nitz@bethanysaginaw.com](mailto:mike.nitz@bethanysaginaw.com) and simply type the phrase "VP please" in the subject line. Or if you wish to no longer receive Viewpoints, type the phrase "discontinue VP" in the subject line. Thanks.

*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

