

as the resurrection has. It would also make the scripture narrative mere fiction, or else it would leave Jesus under the serious charge of producing in the minds of the apostles a false impression—a false impression on which they based their hopes, and which they were allowed to hand down to all Christendom as real fact. It would make them either deceivers or else deceived; and Jesus would be guilty of allowing them to remain deceived as to the greatest event of his life.

We shall not follow the theorists farther. Enough has been said to illustrate the danger of going to the empty tomb with anything but a free, unbiassed mind. Go there as Mary did, weeping, longing only to find Jesus. Go not to speculate, to decide the matter by human reason, or to explore the dark vault with the dim torch of human knowledge or human observation. Some men would end the matter in their studies by syllogisms and microscopes. Mary had a better way. She went and saw the empty tomb. She stood there with tearful eye, and yearning heart, and the great Giver of light beheld her need. He looked upon the sorrow of her heart; he saw the humility of her mind; he heard the cry of her soul as she sobbed piteously and uttered His name. He heard and saw all this and then He stood beside her, and said in the old familiar tone of tenderness, "Mary!" This was all heart wanted, and belief too was satisfied. And so we should like to dwell a moment on this last step.

4. The Lord spoke to her. She never doubted His resurrection after that. It was all she desired. In after years when heart would begin to sink, the remembrance of that familiar voice would bring back joy and comfort, and banish all rising doubt. When she would hear unbelievers ridicule the idea of her Lord's resurrection, and when reason seemed to suggest that perhaps they were right, the sound of her name uttered in her soul by the old familiar voice would recall her back to faith. And what was undoubtedly true in her case has been experienced by believers ever since. We prize and appreciate