

RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION
(JOH 20:14-18)
- A JOHANNINE THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF JESUS'
APPEARANCE TO MARY MAGDALENE -

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Abstract. In this article, I pointed out a few aspects from the episode of the meeting between the risen Jesus and Mary Magdalene on the morning of the Resurrection day (Joh 20:14-18). I have undertaken this analysis by taking into account the paschal theological Perspective of John the Evangelist. By doing this, I have tried to emphasize the identification between the Resurrection of Jesus and His "Ascension" that is equal with His Exaltation which Jesus speaks to Mary Magdalene about. This identification between the two seemingly distinct episodes with a single saving act, i.e. His Exaltation, constitutes a feature of John's Paschal Theology.

Keywords: Resurrection, Ascension, Paschal Theology, Exaltation, Mary Magdalene.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth of the Gospels and the crucial biblical point of the whole doctrine of Christianity. Thus, the all four Gospels of the New Testament canon conclude their account of Jesus' life and activity with the description of His Resurrection or "Exaltation" (Matt 28; Mk 16; Lk 24; Joh 20-21). On the other hand, the kerygmatic activity of the early Church is dominated by the emphasis placed mainly on the event of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Savior, which event, together with His Passion and Death on the cross, is the supreme act of His "Ascension" or "Glorification" (cf. Acts 2:24-36; 3:14.26; 4:10-11; 5:30-32; 7:55-56; 10:39-43; 13:30-38; 17:3.31). From this perspective, the Resurrection cannot be treated only as an "important and interesting epilogue" of the suffering on the Cross, as it is the fundamental act of the whole salvation achieved by Jesus Christ.

But a complete description of the theological dimension of the Resurrection are required, mainly from a biblical perspective, detailed analysis and nuances of some aspects of events related to it, especially regarding the appearances of the Risen Lord.

To illustrate these truths, I will refer only to the episode of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene. This episode reproduces, as well as possible, the perspective