*From the Pastor’s desk:*

**THE SAME MARY!?**

“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.” **(Mar 16:9 KJV)**

Considering her past, Mary Magdalene should not receive such honour. More so, she was not the only individual who saw the Empty Grave. All the same, some virtues made her own experience unique. Those virtues are:

1. DEVOTION.

Devotion is an old and much used word. It carries the suggestion of an altar and a gift. Mary was committed to Jesus when He was with them and when He was thought to be in the grave.

1. COURAGE (Mary went with other women).

Although they appeared to miss the point, this was an uncommon demonstration of courage! They came when it was yet dark! They didn’t come to weep. They had prepared spices and came for the purpose of anointing His body. It was a great service to the one they claimed to love.

1. PERSISTENCE

Mary was not the only one who saw the Empty Grave. Apostles John and Peter and the other women also did. But Mary’s persistence made her see more. After the others had departed, Mary tarried. She bent over, looked into the tomb again. Then, she saw two angels and eventually, the Lord Jesus appeared unto her. She was first to see Jesus. The same Mary!?

Your previous story notwithstanding, God desires to reveal Himself to you in an uncommon way. As you consider the Empty Grave, you MUST be devoted. You MUST be courageous. And you MUST be persistent. As you pay attention to these necessary ingredients, I pray for you in the spirit of Easter that God will manifest Himself to you like never before in Jesus’ Name. The blessings attached to the Death and Resurrection of JESUS will find expression in your life in Jesus Name. AMEN.