

## 04.27.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “Lord, Help Us See Clearly Now”

**Scripture Reading:** [John 20:11-18](#) ; [Deuteronomy 4:1-14](#) ; [Mark 8:14-21](#) ; [Revelation 3:14-18](#) ; [Matthew 7:1-5](#)

**Reflection:** Pastor Henry

While reflecting on John 20:11-18, our passage for this week, a hit song by Johnny Nash that made it all the way to number one on the Billboard Hot 100 in November 1972 came to mind. Can you guess which song of Johnny Nash I am referring to?

The Johnny Nash song I am referring to is “*I Can See Clearly Now*.” For those of us who are older, we immediately recognize the distinctive tune and lyrics of this song and have a hard time not singing along. The song just draws us in. For those of you who are younger and may have no idea what I am talking about, you can listen to the song here: [“I Can See Clearly Now”](#)

This song came to mind because just like Mary in our text for this week, I too sometimes have a hard time being able to see things clearly.

As Mary approached Jesus’ tomb on that first Easter Sunday morning, she approached with a body, heart, mind, and soul that had just experienced the horrors and trauma of the previous week. During the previous few days, Mary had witnessed firsthand the mock trial, the ridicule, the scorn, the torture, the crucifixion, the death, and the burial of her rabbi, her teacher, her friend, her Lord. Mary’s heart is heavy, a rightfully so. Her tears are flowing, and rightfully so. Her eyes are cloudy, and rightfully so. Heavy hearts, flowing tears, and cloudy eyes are the appropriate response to torture, ridicule, crucifixion, and death.

But something had dramatically changed on that first Easter morning as Mary approached and sat outside of the tomb. A completely new reality had dawned on that first Easter Sunday. A new reality that was not yet known. A new reality that had not yet been seen. A new reality that had not yet been embraced. A new reality where the crying and tears of the previous week (“Why are you crying?”) need to be exchanged for something different.

While Mary sits outside the tomb on that first Easter morning, she does so as one still living in the old reality. The old reality is still clouding the new. When Mary sees that Jesus’ body is missing, when she sees the two angels who are sitting in its place, and when she sees Jesus who approaches from behind her, the old reality is still controlling what she sees, and thinks is going on. As a result, she sees a stolen body and a gardener who may know where the body was taken. She is still unable to see things clearly. This all changes when Jesus says her name: “Mary.” When Jesus reveals himself to her, Mary’s eyes and heart are opened to the new reality. Jesus is not dead. He is alive. Mary exclaims, “I have seen the Lord.” Mary can see clearly now.

Friends, how often aren’t we just like Mary? We think we are seeing things around us clearly. But truth be told, we are not seeing things clearly at all. Why? Because when we look at people or things or situations or problems at home, work, or school, we are looking at them through the old reality or a reality that’s clouded by our misconceptions, assumptions, or ignorance. Just like Mary, we need God to open our eyes and surprise our

hearts with the new resurrection power of God reality. Jesus is not dead. Jesus is alive. Jesus has overcome sin and death. Since we need God's help to open our eyes to see what is really happening, each day it's so good for us to pray: "Jesus, reveal yourself to us. Reveal your resurrection power. Help us to see... \_\_\_\_\_... clearly now!"

**Prayer:**

Jesus, help us see clearly now that you're alive. Jesus, remove all the obstacles in our way. Jesus, remove any dark clouds that have us blind to the bright, powerful, life-changing power of your resurrection not only in our own lives but also in the situations and lives of those around us. Jesus, reveal yourself to us. Help us to see clearly now! AMEN

**Action Item for the Day/Week:**

As you encounter different people, circumstances, challenges, or situations at home, work, or school this week, ask God to help you see things clearly. Ask God to help you remove any obstacles (misconceptions, assumptions, etc.) that might be preventing you from seeing things as God wants you to see them.

**Songs for today:**

[Open My Eyes, That I May See](#)

[Open the Eyes of My Heart](#)

[Open Our Eyes](#)

[Come and See](#)