Confusion and Confession

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Preacher: Mr Calum Campbell

we shall turn to the word of God and we shall turn to the New Testament to the gospel of John where we will read once again from John chapter 20 we will read from the beginning of this wonderful chapter down to the end of verse marked 18 John chapter 20 at verse 1 now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb so she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple the one whom Jesus loved and said to them they have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we know not where they have laid him so Peter went out with the other disciple and they were going toward the tomb both of them were running together but the other disciple outran

Peter and reached the tomb first and stooping to look in he saw the linen clothes lying there but he did not go in then Simon Peter came following him and went into the tomb and he saw the linen clothes lying there the face cloth which had been on Jesus head not lying with the linen clothes but folded up in a place by itself then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in and he saw and believed for as yet they did not understand the scripture that he must rise from the dead then the disciples went back to their homes but Mary stood weeping outside the tomb and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had lain one at the head and one at the feet and they said unto her woman why are you weeping and she said to them they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid him having said this they turned around and saw Jesus standing but she did not know that it was Jesus 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 Jesus said unto her Mary she turned and said to him in Aramaic Rabboni which means teacher

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 I am ascending to my father and your father and to my God and your God Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples I have seen the Lord and that he had said these things to her Amen and may the Lord bless to us that reading from his own holy word we shall sing once again in Psalm 30 Psalm 30 at verse 4 Psalm 30 at verse 4 down to the end of verse mark 9 Psalm 30 at verse 4 O ye that are his holy ones sing praise unto the Lord and give unto him thanks when ye his holiness record down to the end of verse mark 9 what profit is there in my blood when I go down to pit shall unto thee the dust give praise thy truth declare shall it shall we sing these words together

O ye that are his holy ones O ye that are his holy ones sing praise unto the Lord God, oneth he that's his holy one God, oneth he that are his holy ones sing here O ye that are his holy ones sing here in my voice as he that are his holy ones O ye that are his holy ones in May 6 God, oneth he that are the Ei God, oneth he that are his holy ones land the day as ampai futuristic Christ, onborough, onem Christ we shall In this received life, We will be in this home An seeking

The reign of joy In our eyes In my prosperity I set the night inside me room.

[5:38] O Lord, the last, my love and the King, to stand strong by Thy love.

But when I found, O gracious God, this time I did strong in, And when He lost, my cross must be, coming to His name.

When for the truth, the Lord might die, I cause it to ascend.

My countless love, He is gone, I do the Lord descend.

What love will be said in my blood, when I go down to Him?

[7:20] Shalom to Thee, the power still brings, thy truth in the air.

We shall turn once again to that glorious chapter that we have read together.

And seeking the Lord's help this morning, we shall read once again the words that we have in verse 11. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb.

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. Those of you who were here the last time that I had the privilege to preach here will remember that it was on the calendar day as we know, and as the church remembers worldwide as Easter Sunday.

And on that day, I sought to look with the Lord's help at the first nine verses of this portion of Scripture, where we looked at the first part of this with the greatest discovery that this world has ever known, in connection with the fact that Jesus Christ had risen from the grave.

[9:06] And we looked on that morning at Mary Magdalene's discovery at the sepulcher, and we also looked at Peter and John's discovery at the sepulcher.

And again today, I want to return to this portion of Scripture, both this morning and also this evening. This morning I would like to look at these verses which speak of Mary meeting with the angels.

And this evening I hope to, in the will of the Lord, speak of Mary's meeting with the risen Christ. And I do strongly believe that sometimes we get it wrong when we only hear about the resurrection of Christ in the months of March or April, and we only hear about the birth of Christ in the month of December.

We as a church and we as a people should rejoice at any time of the year to remember that there was a time when our Lord was born, and when our Lord died, and when our Lord rose again.

So today I want to look at the imperfections of Mary Magdalene's faith. The imperfections of her faith. And look at verses 10 to 13 under two headings.

[10:42] And these headings are Mary Magdalene's continued confusion and Mary Magdalene's continued confession. Now just to recap, just for a moment or two, we know from the last time that Mary and a band of sisters in Christ left early in the darkness in order to seek to go to the sepulcher to anoint the body of Jesus Christ.

And when these ladies reached there that morning, they saw that the stone was rolled away. They did not go to the entrance of the sepulcher. They did not look in.

But Mary at that moment reached her own conclusion that the body of Christ had been stolen. And so she runs to the beloved disciple John.

And she runs to where John and Peter are. And that she tells her. With that breathless news that she would have had of what she had witnessed.

And they run. And they go to the tomb. And one outruns the other. John reaches first. John stoops in, but doesn't enter into the tomb.

[12:01] And then Simon Peter comes and he enters in. And he sees what is there. And he beckons John to come in. And we read these wonderful words in verse 8.

Then the other disciple, whom reached the tomb first, being John, also went in. And he saw and believed. And we left this portion the last time having said that John saw and believed.

And another portion of scripture tells us that Peter saw and Peter wondered. And then we pick up this portion of scripture now in this next phase of this wonderful chapter.

And in verse 1 of this chapter, you see the story is on the woman. And then in verses 2 to 9, the story is about Peter and John. And now in verses 10 to verse 18, we find that the story once again turns to Mary Magdalene.

So it is reasonable for us surely to say that by the time this woman, Mary, reaches the sepulcher for a second time, she reaches there alone.

[13:21] Scripture tells us here in verse 10, then the disciples went to their own home. And for Mary Magdalene, that resurrection morning, her confusion just continues.

The reaction of the disciples is perhaps in some ways puzzling. That they would go to their homes. That they didn't stay.

That they didn't wait for Mary Magdalene. But off they go. And why is it that they left the sepulcher? Well, surely it is simply this, is that they just didn't know what to do.

They didn't know what to do next. And so they decided that what would be best is to make their way to tell the other disciples.

John, as we have read, has seen and believed, but Peter at this point has not. And no doubt they concluded that it was better to make their way home and to share with them what they have seen.

[14:34] Can you picture their way home? Can you picture these two men walking and talking?

These two men who wrote so much of the New Testament between them. I believe with my whole heart that as John was walking with Peter that day, he would have been sharing with them of what had been revealed unto him.

that despite the fact that they had forsaken Christ and fled, that he was of the opinion that Jesus had risen from the dead. And he would have been sharing this news with Peter as they made their way back so.

In 1 Peter and in chapter 1, after we read of the greeting in verses 1 and 2, we read of Peter's first words about being born again to a living hope.

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

[15:56] You know, I can't help but wonder if Peter is reflecting on that walk with John as he is writing these words.

at the start of his letter. And I also can't help but think, I wonder if part of the reason why they left so soon was not just with regard to John wanting to tell the disciples, but John wanting to tell this news to Mary, the mother of Christ.

Do you remember the words on the cross that Christ said unto John, Behold thy mother, behold thy son.

That new relationship that had been formed that day where the Lord committed his mother into the care of John, the beloved disciple.

But surely too, we can say that they left because they were afraid. In verse 19, we read that on that same day, but on the evening of the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were found gathered for fear of the Jews.

[17:24] These disciples didn't want to stay there in case they were numbered as the Lord's followers, in case they too would be recognized and be crucified or be imprisoned and put to death.

So by the time Mary Magdalene reaches, and we can only assume that these two men took a different route back to their homes because Scripture doesn't tell us that their paths crossed, but by the time Mary Magdalene reaches, there is no Peter, there is no John.

The other women who left with her in the morning have also gone and she is alone. outside the tomb.

And I might not be wrong in this, but I don't think the two disciples stayed there particularly long before they made their way to their own homes.

And so when Mary Magdalene reaches, nothing has changed as far as she is concerned. she reaches there still grieving, still broken hearted, and still very much of the opinion that the body of Christ has been stolen.

[18:49] And there is nobody there to tell her any different. And so she lingers at the grave. She lingers at the grave.

She stood weeping outside the tomb. Because she knows not what else to do. And so we ask the question, well Mary, why did you not do likewise?

Why did you not leave with the other woman? Why did you not leave with John? Why did you not leave with Peter? What is leaving you still standing weeping outside the tomb?

Well as far as this godly woman is concerned, this is where the body of her Lord had lain. Lain to rest.

And to her and to her alone this was the only place that she would get an answer for her questions. she physically could not leave that tomb because her heart was not satisfied and she had questions to ask and she had no answers for these questions.

[20:09] Her mind has not been convinced like John's mind. Her mind has not been convinced that by seeing and believing because at this point she still has not entered into the tomb.

and likewise like Peter it wasn't enough for her to know that something wonderful had happened in the tomb that she couldn't quite comprehend because she still as I have said has got not looked into the tomb.

Here is a woman who in a sense is hoping against hope. and we've all been there haven't we? We've all been there hoping against hope in a certain situation of our lives.

I'm reminded just now of that awfully tragic news article that took place a few months ago where we all followed in wonderment as to what had happened to that lovely woman who had gone missing Nicola Bully a wife and a mother who went for a walk and disappeared.

and I remember at the time thinking well what has happened to her? Is it true that she has passed away and died and her body is in the river despite the fact that there's experts would say that they have looked and they have searched and wherever she is she is not to be found in the river and that family hoping against hope that she is still alive.

[22:10] But my friends here is a woman who is hoping against hope not that her saviour is alive but that her saviour's body would be returned unto her.

And her strong stand and her strong love for her saviour that's what makes her stand. That's what makes her unable to move back to her own home.

And you know there's something really wonderful about this. Despite the fact that Mary Magdalene has got it so wrong we have to recognise that where there is a true love for Christ there will be a constant adherence.

to Christ and that's who she is. She wants nothing but to find the body of Christ and to anoint the body of Christ to give her the comfort that she needs completely unaware that he has risen from the dead.

said to her God oh Mary Magdalene how could you have got it so wrong? How could the disciples have got it all so wrong?

[23:37] How could the followers of Christ have got it so wrong? When time and time again he had told them that he must die and rise again from the dead and here she is can you picture her as she stands as she weeps as she looks and these tears they speak so loudly do they not of her love of Christ?

Overcome with grief her tears are constant and again you and I have been there haven't we? When it comes to losing someone we love it's not just a little tear it's constant tears and to her are that mourning these tears they were blinding tears you know there are many Christians in here today and they can take you to the very place where they met the Lord they can remember with vivid account of the minister that was preaching what he said the text where they were sitting the time everything and then there are people like me who don't know the time

I don't know the time when I was converted but there are many Christians in here who don't know the time when they were converted but they do know the time when they knew for the first time ever in their lives that they were lost doomed and damned and on their way to hell and then the tears came and the tears led to seeking until we found the Christ that we were looking for you know my friends in order to seek and to find Christ as saviour for many of us it is best done with great affection and in tears exactly as it is with

Mary Magdalene here and despite the fact that she's got it so wrong her seeking for Christ is going to be rewarded and we look at that God willing later on tonight rewarded by the Lord himself how precious how very precious my friends is love to Christ in God's sight even if it is mixed with mistakes and errors along the way is that not you and is that not I as Christians today mistake after mistake blunder after blunder and yet the Lord still loves us because he knows that in our midst of all these mistakes and failures as

Christians there is a heart that still loves Christ yet here and now she is seeking for a lost Christ in a place where he cannot be found and she weeps she stands weeping she weeps and she weeps she weeps because she remembers the bitter sufferings of Christ she weeps my friends because of his death she weeps because of her loss she weeps because of her loss of the saviour and she weeps because of her loss of a friend and she weeps because she knows at some point she is going to have to make her own way home without Christ by her side and she weeps because she doesn't know where the body of Christ is as she longs to anoint his dead body weeping my friends and seeking they go together weeping must lead to seeking to shed a tear of unsettlement is not enough for Christ many is a time and I'm sure many as a believer in here can recall times when they went to bed after hearing an evangelistic service and they were unsettled and they wept and they sought the

Christians but we don't want to let go of this or that or the next thing and we never became Christians did we not until the time when we are willing to leave everything behind and give the Lord a hundred percent of our hearts I wonder is there anybody in here today who has wept in times past over a sermon or over a debate or over a time of fellowship that they have heard the word of God and you still my friends are not closed in with Christ well I believe that there are many I believe that there are some who wept in this world who were unsettled over this world over something that they heard regarding the word of God and they still went to hell because they did not have salvation in Christ weeping and seeking must go together and then we read that finally the time comes where she gazes through her tears and she makes her way to the sepulcher and she makes her way to the tomb and we read that she stooped in to look into the tomb oh well my friends what a sight she saw there when she looked in she saw something there when she looked in that was for her eyes only she looked she saw something in there that

Peter and John did not see she saw something in there that was reserved for her and for her alone and we read of what she saw that the tomb was no longer empty because they who stand in the presence of the Lord are there in the tomb two angels in white sitting where the body of Christ had lain one at his head and two at his feet and evidently it would appear from what we read here that they looked like men not as sometimes we picture them with halos and wings and things like that but ordinary people with linen clothes white clothing around them that made them stand out that made them look different and how often we have read in the

Old Testament and in the New Testament of the Lord sending his ministering angels to strengthen and be a time of blessing for his own people and angels my friends played a large part in the life of Christ angels were present as we read in the New Testament at the time of the birth of John the Baptist angels played their part to announce the birth of Christ it was angels that told the shepherd where Christ was to be born it was angels that strengthened the Lord after his time in the wilderness and his temptations it is an angel that strengthened the Lord at Gethsemane and now we see the two angels appear on the morning of his resurrection these angels first announced his birth when he was born and then 33 years later the

Lord commissions these angels to return again to the place where he was laid to rest and where he rose again how wonderful that God's messengers are sent from heaven God's messengers are here to honour Christ to honour Christ with grace and solemnity with regard to his resurrection the angels of the Lord have you ever wondered my friends of the wonder of how angels are able to appear and disappear at the command of God they have the ability to be invisible to some and visible to others and I do believe that these angels were present in the tomb when Peter and John were there but they were not for their eyes you know the Lord's angels can be near us without us having any knowledge and being totally unaware that they are present many people will say what a privilege what a blessing it is my friends to being a Christian in this world because of the reward that we receive when our time is over and we enter into glory glory but we've got it all wrong if that's all we're thinking of because it is a blessing to be a

Christian in this world not just because we get glory at the end of it but because we are kept by the Lord in this world to be kept by the Lord that is wonderful let me share with you a story about angels that I don't think anybody in here will know about there's nearly there's over ten years since my mother in law passed away and many of you here know of my links with Tolstair between my mother and my wife and when my mother in law took ill she was taken to hospital she was given two days to live the family were called for some of them were in

Germany and she didn't want to die in hospital she wanted to die in the Glen so she was allowed home from hospital to die in her own home and the two days that the NHS that the doctors had promised her turned into if I remember right around about two months two months of many highs two months of many lows two months of time when we thought the end was here and then she would get a bit stronger and rise up again but a few days before she had to go to Bethesda she endured a crisis within her soul where the devil had convinced her that she was not a Christian where the devil had convinced her that despite the fact that she was a member in the Free

Presbyterian Church in Tolstair that soon she would die and soon she would go to hell and it didn't matter my friends what we said as a family to try and comfort her there was no comfort for her and finally one night before she went to Bethesda she managed to sleep in much restlessness and when she woke some time later her face was radiant and the house was full of family members and she woke and she said to us can you see them and we said see what the angels of the Lord they are in here and they have told me that I will soon die and go to heaven and she would always have the curtains open in the bedroom because she wanted to see the view and she would say there's one there's one there's one the angels of the

Lord encompassing round about but it was not for her eyes it was for her preparation and going to glory and I even foolishly went outside and walked round the house in the glen three or four times thinking I would get a glimpse of an angel but no you see that's what the Lord does for his own people for an unknown person on the island really who was housebound for years that's what it means to be kept by the Lord that's what's so wonderful about being a Christian and many other people in here I'm sure will have stories different similar to experiences like that that's what the Lord has promised us and that's why as my friends as Christians we ought not to fear death there's no warrant in scripture for us to worship angels because my friends angels at the end of the day are just created beings just like you and

I in white in robes in white garments there they are both of them placed there to indicate the purity to indicate the holiness to indicate the victory of the heavenly kingdom but more than that these angels they also show us don't they know the triumph of life over death the triumph of victory of light over darkness and the triumph of grace over sin and these angels are present there that day and all four gospels make mention of these angels but yet Mary Magdalene doesn't recognize them as angels from the heavenly realm these two angels

I think would be safe to say that they were placed there one at the head and one at the feet by the Lord God Almighty as God's watchmen to make sure that the body of Christ would not be taken away but here now they are no longer God's watchmen because the Lord has risen they are no more defending the body of Christ they are simply there now peacefully watching where the Lord had lain and isn't it wonderful for us to think that when our saviour was put to death the injustice of it all and how he was shamed and placed between two thieves as he died and yet here is our Lord when he rose again and the

Lord God has placed two angels from on high to be to be present with him in the tomb and again I say does this not teach us that as believers we should not fear the grave and these two angels they were placed there for Mary Magdalene's eyes only and they were placed there in order to comfort the sorrow of her heart and these two angels are there but she doesn't seem to take any notice of them or even of the grave clothes that are present there and how they are placed all these things that would appear goes unnoticed unnoticed she does not believe and see she does not see and believe as John did and like

Peter she has no significance of their understanding the wonder of what has taken place she doesn't even see that something wonderful has taken place here she is completely blind to all these things here is a woman who is still looking for human intervention instead of divine intervention and even for Mary Magdalene the sight of two angels dressed in white brought her no comfort at all and let us quickly now move on to our second heading Mary Magdalene's continued confession we find that in verse 13 and they the angel said to her woman why are you weeping and she said they have taken away my lord and

I do not know where they have laid him you know have you ever noticed my friends the angels compassionate inquiry have you ever thought of how they spoke to her have you ever read this and realized that they knew her tears and they asked her woman why weepest thou despite the fact that they know why she is weeping but this was more than a question woman why weepest thou woman why weepest thou is more than a question what it actually is is a compassionate rebuke from the angels regarding her weeping and regarding her misery and regarding her confusion what they are actually saying to her is that they are asking this question to stir her mind as if to say to her

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Mary is this really a cause for weeping Mary are you quite sure that this empty tomb that you are seeing here that instead of weeping Mary do you not think that you should be rejoicing that is what the angels are implying when they say woman why weepest thou what they are actually saying is Mary this is a time of joy not a time for weeping but Mary Magdalene doesn't see it that way oh my friends what concern these angels had towards this woman as they seek to bring comfort to her this woman who was comfortless but like I said a wee while ago the

Lord will always bring comfort to his own comfortless people in his own time have you ever thought of how these angels could have rebuked her have you ever thought how these angels could have said to her Mary you should be ashamed of yourself you should be ashamed of your unbelief Mary you are a disgrace to the cause of Christ Mary does the Lord's death and does the Lord's resurrection mean nothing at all to you how dare you get this wrong but they don't you see the angels are like the Lord the Lord himself who had the ability to speak in such a way that he could rebuke with compassion she's here she's in the presence of two angels the

[48:06] Lord has left all these signs for her and still her only thought is where is the body of Christ and even the appearance of these two angels does not change her mind here is a woman who has no resurrection faith at this time so completely her sorrow and grief captured the soul of Mary Magdalene that when we read these words she's not even startled by the angels she's not even in awe of them she's not even fearing what she sees she's not even understanding this heavenly visitation she doesn't see them for who they are or the question that they ask her it's not enough for

Mary Magdalene and yet though her mind is in crisis her speech is so calm and replied here she is speaking to two angels and it's as if she's speaking to two ordinary people and she gives her answer woman why weepest thou they have taken away my lord and I do not know where they have laid him and what you have here in verse 13 is really a repeat of what she says to Simon and what she says to Peter and to John in verse two notice in verse two so she ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple the one whom Jesus loved and she said to them they have taken the and we do not know where they have laid him but here do you see what she is saying they have taken away my lord and

I do not know where they have taken him it is no longer the lord it is my lord and it is no longer we but I because she is by herself in the tomb with two angels from glory you know do you see the difference between verse two and verse thirteen do you see my friend how her passion for christ has intensified do you see how her love for christ has multiplied my lord my lord is what she says as if no other person in this world or no other created being has any right or claim to him but my lord that's how this broken woman speaks of christ and she is here alone with two angels what ought to have been the ultimate blessing for her and she doesn't understand it oh mary how could you have got it so wrong but let's not be too hard on her because great is going to be her reward what are angels to mary magdalene at this time and

I say this with all reverence angels are absolutely nothing to mary magdalene in comparison to finding the dead body of Christ and in this we see both the weakness of her faith and the imperfections of her faith but we also see the strength of her love for the Lord well in closing as we read this and as we meditate upon this does this not today give us comfort as believers does this not comfort our souls to know that no matter what mistakes we have ever committed in the past that have been done by the saints have been done by those who are believers in

Christ in this world whether through ignorance or whether through unbelief that great will still be a reward at the end of life's journey do you know there are things in my life that I wish I could erase from my memory but I can't even even in the pulpit the devil can remind you of these things that you did so long ago and the devil until our dying day knows that as Christians we are kept in the hands of the Lord and he can never take us away but he will always try his very best to torment our souls in order to hinder our relationship with

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Christ oh great will be our reward and glory and great still will be your reward and glory my dear friends in here today if you still have not placed your trust in Christ a saviour and friend oh you're in here today and the devil will say to you you are way too late you're past it I have given you opportunity the Lord has given you opportunity after opportunity the Lord won't listen to you because you're in your 50s or in your 60s or in your 70s what the rubbish the whole of glory would rejoice right now if you gave your lives to Christ what

Mary Magdalene here my friends is experience is experience she's experiencing the blessed sense of the absence of Christ in her life and that is a painful thing to endure when we allow that to come into our experience but her love and her affection towards Christ continues to grow despite her turmoil despite her confusion and even although she has no comprehension of what is going on around about her she still reaches the stage where she says my Lord yes she has made a mistake yes she may have made one of the most biggest mistakes recorded in the

New Testament but these things are there for our edification these things are there to encourage us her faith was weak but yet this woman at the time when her faith was at the weakest at the time when she is at her lowest web Christ is about to reveal himself to her and give her an incredible commission which we will look at God willing tonight despite her weaknesses she will be richly rewarded by the Lord by the risen Lord not the dead Lord that she seeks but the Lord that is alive has resurrected and is alive forever more he is going to deal with her in a matter of moments you know there's a wonderful text in

Jude that I'm sure your minister uses and you've heard time and time again as part of the benediction Jude 24 now unto him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless in the presence of his glory with great joy where is Mary Magdalene right now Mary Magdalene is in glory and there is no confusion there and she sees Christ for who he is there and she sees the angels for who they are there but more than that my friends the time came in her life when she died and here we read that despite our stumblings Christ will present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy not just blameless not just faultless but he's going to have great joy in doing so in presenting you and

I unto the father what a thought or see what we miss out on if we don't turn to him and ask him into our lives may it be so my friends that as each and every single one of us are found gathered in here today may it be that in the fullness of time each one of us will be gathered in glory at the end of life's journey despite our failures despite our stumblings despite our mistakes Christ Christ longs to present us faultless with great joy before the father amen may the lord bless to us these thoughts from his own holy word can we conclude today singing in psalm 23 psalm 23 the psalm that we all know and love so well and as we are singing it my friends let us remember that this psalm does not say that the lord is the shepherd but that this psalm says the lord is my shepherd may he be the shepherd of your soul from this day onwards each and every single one of us the lord's my shepherd

[60:43] I'll not want the lord's my shepherd I'll not want he makes me come to lie me mock the curved word night Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

[64:33] Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Keep you.

Thank you. Thank you. Savior and as friend in this world. But until that day, Lord, keep us.

[65:41] Even when we seek to go our own way, keep us from this day onwards and forevermore.

Bless all that was said and done, Lord. And may your seeking people find Christ as Savior and friend to this day. In Jesus' precious name.

Amen.