**John 20:15-17 (NLT)**

15 “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

16 “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

17 “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

**“Looking Beyond the Empty Tomb”**

* Mary Magdalene
* She was a leading figure among those women who followed and attended to the ministerial needs of Jesus.
* When Jesus was crucified and placed in the tomb for three days…**John 20:1**

*“Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early on the first day of the week (Sunday morning); the stone was rolled away and she discovered there was an empty tomb.”*

* That’s the way life is sometimes. things could be going well and all of a sudden, the bottom fall out--**An empty tomb appears.**

Q = What do you do when the bottom falls out?

1. **Stop looking at the problem—John 20:15**

“Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

**Deuteronomy 13:6**

*“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”*

1. **Don’t allow yourself to become pessimistic--Romans 15:13 (ESV)**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

1. **Get in the Word of God—Listen for the voice of the Lord—Psalms 119:105**

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.