Jesus: Arisen on Easter Sunday

"At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. ¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed." - John 19:41-20:8

Jesus' Resurrection was Surprising Because...

1. They were looking for a dead Christ.

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene" went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" - John 20:1,2

• What kind of Christ are you looking for today?

2. They didn't understand God's Word.

"(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)" - John 20:9

• Are you reading the Bible? Do you believe God's Word today?

3. They didn't persist in seeking Him.

"Then the disciples went back to their homes..." - John 20:10

• *Are you seeking the Lord daily?*

4. Their discouragement clouded their discernment.

"Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher")." - John 20:11-16

• What is clouding your view of Jesus today?

5. Some even withdrew from Christian fellowship.

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" - John 20:19

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." - John 20:24-25

• What ministry from Christ are you missing when you are isolated?

What Really Changed These Disciples?

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"Then the disciples went back to their homes..."

2. It was *not* the report about Jesus being seen alive.

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