

Doubting to Believing

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. ²So 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!” ³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there, but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)” ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

John 20:1-10

In this Series, We Will Learn That...

There is a beginning and ending to everything. We need to welcome changes and look for the opportunities they provide.

The Resurrection of Jesus Changes Everything!

The Background:

1. This happened on a Sunday before dawn.

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.

- John 20:1

Many Christians believe that the resurrection of Jesus changed the day of worship.

2. The stone had already been removed from the entrance.

“So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.”

- Matthew 27:66

“There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.”

- Matthew 28:2

3. There is an urgency to investigate the tomb.

“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 20:2

“Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.”

- John 20:4

The Characters:

Mary Magdalene:

Pathway to Belief: When Jesus called her name.

Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

- John 20:16

Peter:

Pathway to Belief: Seeing the risen Jesus.

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!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

- John 20:19-20

John:

Pathway to Belief: Entering the empty tomb.

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

- John 20:8

So, What do YOU believe?

“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

- Romans 10:9

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