

March 31, 2024
La Jolla Christian Fellowship

Happy Easter!

Arise!

Then—Now—Forever

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John 20:1-10

Vs. 1 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. 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!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

The Setting: Vs. 1 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.

- **Jerusalem:** The former capital of the Jewish nation, but now under Roman occupation.
- **Jesus has been crucified.**
- **It was early and it was dark.**
- **The stone had been rolled away and Jesus was missing.**

The Characters: A diverse set of followers.

- **Mary Magdalene: A formerly demon possessed prostitute (disputed).**
 - **Luke 8:1-3** After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.
- **John: A well connected fisherman.**
 - **Loved: Vs. 2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, **the one Jesus loved.**
 - **Connected: John 18:15** Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard.
 - **The protector of Christ mother: John 19:26-27** When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.
- **Peter: A rash, violent, denier of Christ who would become one of the primary figures of Christianity.**
 - **Rash: Vs. 6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there.
 - **Violent: John 18:10** - "Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus."
 - **Real**

Despite the diversity of characters in this passage, all ended up at a common waypoint within the story and confronted with a common question: Would they believe that Jesus had RISEN from the dead?

Vs. 8-9 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.