

The Tomb is Empty



Mary Magdalene walked slowly through the silent streets. It was so early that it was still dark. No one saw where she was going. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she walked towards the place where Jesus had been buried. She remembered how the crowds had mocked Jesus, asking Pilate to free Barabbas and kill Jesus. She could not understand it. So many people had praised Jesus only a few days ago. And now they wanted to see him dead.

Mary was there when they crucified him. Almost all the disciples had fled in fear. Later, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus. Mary watched as they placed Jesus in the tomb. Then the soldiers sealed the tomb so no one could steal his body. Mary arrived at the garden where Jesus had been buried. Would it be the right place? She looked around carefully. Yes, this is the place, she thought. But ... the stone that covered the entrance to the tomb had been moved to the side!

What should she do? What does this all mean? She crouched down to look inside. She was too scared to go in. The tomb was empty! The body of Jesus was not there! Mary ran back to town. Tears rolled down her face as she reached the house where Peter and John were.

"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" she said with dismay.

Peter and John didn't wait for more. They ran out in the direction of the tomb. John arrived first, but didn't enter the tomb. When Peter and Mary arrived, Peter entered the tomb to see with his own eyes. He saw the strips of linen and the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus. Mary's report was true. The body of Jesus was not there. The tomb was empty!

John didn't understand what had happened to Jesus. But he saw and believed. Jesus was not dead anymore. Peter and John returned to the village to tell the others what had happened. Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent down to look inside, and saw two angels dressed in white, who sat where the body of Jesus had been. One of the angels asked, "Woman, why are you crying?" She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put