

# An Empty Tomb

Read John 20:1-18

1. John 20 introduces three witnesses who visited Jesus' tomb on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene, the "other disciple" and Peter arrive in succession at the tomb. Each one observes something special/striking. Taken together their observations give an accumulating body of evidence for Jesus' resurrection. What are the facts that each one discovers?
  - Mary Magdalene discovered...
  - the "other disciple"
  - Peter
  - "other disciple's" further response was...
  - Mary Magdalene remained near the tomb and observed...
2. John 20:9 highlights the fact that the disciples, including Mary Magdalene, at that time, "did not understand the Scriptures." What point is the writer John making? Why is this point important?
3. The resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and tells her, "Stop clinging to me, for I've not yet ascended to My Father & your Father, to My God and your God, but go to my brothers..." (Jn. 20:17)
  - What is the significance of Jesus' message to His disciples via Mary Magdalene?
  - What is the difference (if any) between Jesus' actual words--"My Father & your Father, to My God and your God" and a similar statement "I ascend to **Our** Father and **Our** God"? Would it have exactly the same meaning? Is it just emphasis?
4. What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?