

## THE BIG DIFFERENCE

The Resurrection of Jesus  
Changes Everything in a Really Big Way

### The Big Shift

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, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 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." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "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." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

**JOHN 20:1-17**

Shattered. It is really the only one word description that fits what happened to the faith and hope of Jesus' disciples in the aftermath of His crucifixion. It had all seemed to end in mind-numbing, soul-wrenching defeat. Evil won. Injustice, hatred, pride, deception, and darkness appeared to triumph over the truth, power, and grace of His words and works. And now it was just His wounds, just the finality of His death to contemplate. Then it all changed. Not everything all at once, but everything altogether, it all changed because of one significant life-altering event. The resurrection. He was not dead but alive, He had risen as He promised. The tomb was empty, and He appeared to His startled, perplexed and fearful followers to point them on, to lead them forward. There was a big shift in the way they would know and relate to Jesus risen and reigning, it was a shift of faith and following that moves us:

1. from precept to person
2. from past to future
3. from few to many

**NEXT WEEKEND:** The Big Difference - "The Big Wait"