



EASTER

THE FINAL SIGN OF THE MESSIAH

First

MARCH 31ST 2024 | PASTORS
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The Final Sign:

“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. ² 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!’

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally 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.)”

~ JOHN 20:1-9 (NIV)

What They Saw That First Sunday – Three Kinds of Sight

“Mary SAW that the stone had been removed” (v1)
Greek: *blepo*;
A quick glance or simple look.

“Peter SAW the strips of linen lying there.” (v6)
Greek: *Theroei*;
Looking carefully, contemplating.

“John SAW and believed.” (v8)
Greek: *Eiden*;
To understand or perceive the significance of.

What Did John See That Caused Him to Believe?

The Stone was _____.

The Tomb was _____.

Jesus Promises were _____.

“⁶ ‘He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ⁸ Then they remembered his words.”

~ LUKE 24:6-8 (NIV)

“⁶ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.” ~ JOHN 20:10 (NIV)

Mary wasn’t convinced yet

“⁶ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ 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.’ ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, ‘Woman, 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.’

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means ‘Teacher’).

¹⁷ Jesus said, ‘Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.”

~ JOHN 20:11-18 (NIV)

What Did Mary Need to Believe?

She needed a _____.

“ 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.”

~ LUKE 8:1-2 (NIV)

She needed to hear Jesus _____.

“ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’” ~ JOHN 20:16 (NIV)

She needed to _____.

“ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.”

~ JOHN 20:18 (NIV)

SO WHAT?

“ Jesus performed many other signs...But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

~ JOHN 20:30-31 (NIV)

“ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” ~ JOHN 10:10 (NIV)

Believing leads to a _____.

“ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

~ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NLT)

DISCUSSION Questions:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |    

- 1- John was quick to believe, Mary needed more evidence. Are you easily convinced of things or more skeptical in nature? Where does that come from for you?
- 2- Are you swayed more by your head or your heart when it comes to matters of faith? How do you relate to people who are more inclined to the other way of belief?
- 3- Read John 20:1-9. This is John's moment of response to the resurrection, He saw and believed! When was your first response to the resurrection? When did you cross the line to believing? If you haven't yet, what more do you think you need to respond?
- 4- Read John 20:10. Peter and John headed back without actually seeing Jesus. John saw and Believed, Mary is sitting outside the tomb still crying, but we don't see a response from Peter. Who do you identify with most? Why?
- 5- Read John 20:11-18. Have you ever had a time when you felt like God was calling you by name? What happened? How did you respond?
- 6- In what ways have you seen Jesus change lives? In you? In others around you?

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