

Story 2. "He is Risen, as He Said"

John 20: 1-18

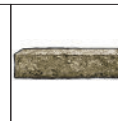
Backgrounds/Overlays (For scene one/in order used)



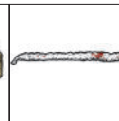
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R3



R4



R11



R9

Figures (in order used)



R22



R17



R16



R20



R15



R14



R5



R21




R7

From all of His followers, Jesus had chosen twelve men to be His apostles, His 'sent ones.' After the betrayal and death of Judas, that inner circle shrank to eleven. Of those, it appears that only Peter and John witnessed Jesus' interrogation and condemnation by the chief priests and the other Jewish leaders. And Peter is not mentioned again after his crushing denial. It is possible that the disciples may have witnessed Jesus' crucifixion, however only John is mentioned by name. But not all of Jesus' followers were men.



In fact, many of Jesus' disciples were women. This often unnamed, unseen group of believing women made Jesus' ministry possible. They followed Him, supported Him, cared for Him and after His death tried to honor Him the only way they knew how, by preparing spices to anoint His body. The women had witnessed Jesus' death, His removal from the cross and His burial. They also saw the stone which was rolled into place to seal the entrance. These stones were very large and needed to be rolled up a slight incline to open up the entrance to get inside. We know that the tomb was also sealed and guarded by soldiers. But apparently nothing was going to stop these women from carrying out their last act of devotion to Jesus.


A few of these women are mentioned by name, but only one, Mary Magdalene (out of whom Jesus had cast seven demons), is mentioned in all four gospels. Jesus' observation, *the one who is forgiven much, loves much*, comes to mind.



The exact chronology of the events following Jesus' resurrection are challenging. However, we do know it was early in the morning, involved an earthquake and even the appearance of angels. But the proof of Jesus' resurrection required actual eye witnesses, or did it? The first one to believe in the resurrection and the first one to see Jesus alive are both found in this story. But one has to wonder, if Jesus was already risen, why did the angels need to roll back the stone? Here is John's account of how the greatest day in history began.

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. When she saw that the stone had been rolled back from the opening,  she ran and found Simon Peter, and John (the other disciple whom Jesus loved).




And Mary said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

(Remove)  So Peter and John went to the tomb. They started out running together, but John outran Peter and got to the tomb first.  When John stooped down and looked inside, He was able to see the linen wrappings lying by themselves. But John did not go in.

Then Simon Peter, who was behind John came. But Peter went into the tomb.  Peter saw the linen cloths lying there but also the cloth that had been over Jesus’ face. However, the facecloth was not lying with the linen wrappings. It was folded up and put in a place by itself.

(Remove)  Then John, who had come to the tomb first, went in.  John saw everything Peter did and he believed. Though neither of them understood the Scriptures that said, Jesus must rise again from the dead.

(Remove)   Then Peter and John left the tomb and went back home.

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt down and looked inside.  She saw two angels dressed in white.  One angel was sitting at the head  and one angel was sitting at the feet where Jesus body had been laid.

The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

Mary replied, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”



Then Mary turned and saw Jesus standing there. However, she did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Now Mary thought he was the gardener, so she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where He is, and I will take Him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” **(Remove)**  **(Add)**  And she turned, crying out, “Rabboni!” (which in Hebrew means “Teacher”).

But Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ”

(Remove)



So, Mary Magdalene went and told the rest of the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and what Jesus had said to her.