

The Empty Tomb

Date : 4/9/23

Key Scriptures : John 20:1-18

LECTIO DIVINA/ STUDY GUIDE

Reading & Prayer

THE EMPTY TOMB

20 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. ⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

reading #1

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.

start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

This Easter was a conversation about belief. **How would you describe your "belief journey"?**

What does it take to *believe* that Jesus rose from the dead, that He came back to life?!

A note was put on our Facebook Easter ad this week that read, "Your religion is false as all are, we are one, no religion is truth, all mislead and destroy truth, we are all Eternal Light beings, and need no savior or religions."

This is a "belief" (or an unbelief) statement. But if the message of the gospel is **true** (it is!) then **how do we help people move** from a self-identifying "we are all eternal light" to Scriptures "the Light has come into the world, and men (people) loved the darkness rather than the Light" (John 3:19).

start sharing. engage it with your story

What specific situation in your life relates? Write down or pray.

What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

What do Jesus words' "blessed are they who did not see, yet believed" (John 20:29) mean to you?

If not by "sight" (though it could be) how does your belief/faith grow?

start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

What is Jesus' personal invitation to you from the scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks.

start praying. be bold and pray with power

prayer requests: