

## **Who Are You Looking For**

John 19:38 – 20:18

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Joseph, from the town of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, who had once come to Jesus at night, took Jesus' body down from the cross and placed it in a nearby tomb that had never been used. Nicodemus had brought a large quantity of spices and perfumes, which they used in wrapping the body for burial.

Early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and Lazarus. She told them what she'd seen.

Peter and Lazarus ran to the tomb. Lazarus arrived first, but Peter was the first to enter the tomb. They saw the linen wrappings lying there, not unwrapped, just empty. The cloth that had covered Jesus' head was lying apart from the rest, folded up like the napkin of a dinner guest who has just said, "Please excuse me. I'll be right back."

The two men went home while Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. Stooping and looking into the tomb, she saw two angels who asked, "Why are you crying?"

"They've taken my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him."

Suddenly Jesus was standing there, but she didn't recognize him. He asked, "Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. "Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where he is. I will go and get him."

Jesus called her by name. "Mary!"

And she instantly recognized him. "Teacher!"

"Don't cling to me," he said, "I haven't gone back to the Father yet. But that's where I'm headed. Go and tell my brothers."

Mary went to the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.