

altered

Part One: *sadness to joy!*

March 3, 2024

Christ's resurrection is not just a Christian doctrine to believe or a holiday to be celebrated once a year in the Spring. It is a supernatural force that can transform you into a new person with a new purpose for living. If you allow it, the resurrection of Jesus Christ can alter your life forever!

- All four Gospels tell us that Jesus' female followers went to the tomb on Sunday morning.

Jesus' female followers wanted to anoint his corpse with more spices and say goodbye to him. These female followers included Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Clopas; Salome, the wife of Zebedee, who was the mother to James and John (Mark 16:1); Joanna (Luke 24:10); and some other women not named (Luke 24:1-10).

- Mary Magdalene was the first woman to visit the tomb on Sunday morning. John 20:1-2

What do we know about Mary Magdalene?

1. She was an important member of Jesus' inner circle.
2. "Magdalene" was not Mary's last name but refers to her hometown - Magdala.
3. Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-3).
4. Mary Magdalene had the honor of being the first person to see the resurrected Christ!

After Peter and John examined the empty tomb and returned home, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb because she wanted to know where Jesus' body had been taken (John 20:11-16). Mary fell to her knees when she saw Jesus and clung to His feet. She didn't want to let go of the One who gave her a new life! Eventually, Jesus told Mary to go and tell the disciples that He had risen from the dead, and Mary ran to tell the disciples the good news (Mark 16:9-11).

- Some of Jesus' other female followers visited the tomb.

Mark's Gospel tells us the women were concerned that they could not roll the large stone from the tomb's entrance to get to Jesus' body (Mk 16:2). But that wasn't a problem - an angel had already rolled the stone away (Matt 28:5-7). While the women were in the tomb, two more angels appeared where Jesus' body had been laid (John 20:12). These angels startled the women and called them to do what the first angel told them to do (Luke 24:5-7). After seeing the empty tomb and hearing the angel's message, the women ran to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. But before they exited the garden area, Jesus appeared to them (Matthew 28:8-10).

What happened when the women were in the presence of the risen Lord?

- Their sadness changed to joy!

The women went to the tomb in sadness - emotional pain from loss, disappointment, and hopelessness. But their sadness quickly changed to joy when they saw the risen Lord! The women rejoiced when they saw Jesus because they knew He was who He claimed to be - the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord! And if He can defeat death, He can do anything!