

SEEING AND BELIEVING

John 20:1-10

Tags

Jesus, the Gospel of John, belief, Christ, Jesus Christ, faith, salvation, believing, Easter, tomb, dark, disciples, Mary Magdalene, Lord, running, early, Peter, John, linen cloths, face cloth, seeing, belief, scripture, Bible, rise from the dead, alive, risen

Introduction

How can someone describe the depths of despair or explain the darkness that hangs over the soul and saturates the early morning air after the crucifixion of Jesus? Grotesque images, crushed hopes, and exhaustion are the experience of those who loved Jesus and were so close to him. Mary Magdalene makes her way to the tomb only to find that the stone has been taken away from the tomb. Confusion and questions fill her mind as she runs to tell Peter and John what she has discovered.

Peter and John race toward the tomb, but what can they possibly do? Experience confirms that death is final and irreversible. Every living thing is in the process of dying, and we can't do a single thing to stop it. Death seems to be the enemy that wins every time. Could God raise his Messiah from the dead? Despite Jesus's own words, his own disciples do not seem to have any expectation that God will do so. The tomb wasn't actually empty, but SEEING AND BELIEVING are two different things. Only Almighty God has the resurrection power to bring life out of what was once dead.

Outline

The resurrection of Jesus is why we are gathered here today.

The resurrection means that despair and darkness don't have the last word.

Religion runs to the tomb and looks around out of fear, insecurity, or self-righteousness.

Knowing things about Jesus is not the same as surrendering to him.

The Bible will help you understand Jesus.

Application

What are you looking for?

Have you experienced the love and hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ?

What happens when you go back to your homes?

Questions

1. Share a time when you felt like things were dark and you were looking for Jesus.
2. Is the resurrection really that important? Why? (1 Corinthians 15:13-19)
3. How does religion keep you running but leave you empty? (Ephesians 2:8-9)
4. What do you think it means to see Jesus? Where does faith come in, and how does it grow when you see Jesus? (Hebrews 11:1)
5. How can you "see" Jesus in the Bible? (Luke 24:13-27)
6. Share what you do to understand the Bible.
7. What do you need to believe about Jesus?