

# Mary Magdalene

I know you may not believe what I'm going to tell you. Even Jesus' disciples didn't—at first. But listen! What I've seen and heard with my own eyes and ears is so incredible, I have to share it! After so many days of sadness, darkness, and death, this is the most incredible news!

This morning, Mary (James' mother), Salome, and I went to the tomb where Joseph and Nicodemus had laid Jesus' body a few days ago. We'd brought spices, which is our custom to honor the dead. Our hearts were so heavy. We wanted to do this for our dear friend Jesus, but how we would move the heavy stone that had been placed over the entrance, we had no idea.

As we neared the garden, I felt as though I were drowning in grief, and I again began to worry. Everything seemed hopeless. But when we arrived, the tomb was not only open but empty! Only the linen cloth that had wrapped Jesus' dead body remained. I panicked. My only thought was that someone must have stolen my Lord's body!

I ran back to tell the disciples that Jesus was gone. At least Peter and John listened to me. We hurried together to the tomb. They were faster than I was, and by the time I arrived, they'd already come and gone. There I stood, grieving at the empty tomb a second time. After Jesus died, all I had left of the Lord I loved was His body. Cruelly, now even that was gone. It felt as though my tears would never stop.

Then I heard a gentle voice asking why I was crying. My eyes were so swollen from all my crying that when I looked up, I could barely see. I figured the man half hidden in the early-morning shadows must be the gardener. I laugh at myself now, thinking about how wrong I was. As soon as the man called me by name, I knew it was Jesus Himself. I'd recognize the voice of my Lord anywhere, even from beyond the grave!

I was feeling so many emotions at once ... shock, wonder, hope, and then joy! Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead! I wanted to hold onto Him and never let go, but Jesus told me to hurry and tell His followers that the unbelievable has happened. That's why I'm telling you! Every word I've said is true. You must believe me: He's alive! Our Lord lives!



*Why was Mary sad when she first went to Jesus' tomb?*

*If you were with Mary that morning, what would you think at first?*

*How can you celebrate the empty tomb?*



