Three people went to the tomb of Jesus, but each had a unique journey of faith. Mary Magdalene saw the stone rolled away from the tomb and ran to tell Peter and the beloved disciple, who in turn ran to the tomb to see for themselves. The beloved disciple "saw and believed." Mary and Peter eventually believed also, but their faith journeys took different routes.

The sight of the abandoned cloths in the empty tomb was a sign for the beloved disciple that Jesus had risen. But none of the disciples understood yet "the scripture, that he must rise from the dead" (John 20:9, NRSV). Their reading of the Old Testament had not prepared them for such an astounding event.

The gospel of John often refers to miracles as signs. The empty tomb was only a sign that pointed to the greater reality of a resurrected Lord. It would take the beloved disciple a lifetime to fathom what it would mean to make the resurrected Jesus Lord of all.