

## Believing Is Seeing

### Description

John 20:11-18

Pilate was surprised. The crowd mocked. A centurion wondered. The disciples were confused. And Mary Magdalene, all she could do was cry. Each reacted to the death of Jesus in different ways. Now the tomb was empty.

This was not going right. Jesus should not have been treated like this. He certainly shouldn't have died like this. How the emotions of disappointment, grief, anger, and fear roiled within her. A figure appeared, a caretaker perhaps. "Woman, why are you crying?" he asked. "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." And one word changed disappointment to faith, grief to joy, anger to peace, and fear to hope: "Mary."

Mary Magdalene was the first to have an encounter with the risen Christ. Thank God she was not the last. Our encounter may not be in a cemetery but it is, nevertheless, just as real and personal, wherever it may happen.

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