

What memories do you carry with you from burials you attended?

15:40-47 (NIV)

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Why do you think the women stayed to watch after Jesus' death?

What details are we given about Joseph?

What surprised Pilate? Why?

What details are we given about the burial?

Is Jesus' burial troubling to you? Explain your answer to the question.

Is Jesus' burial comforting to you? Explain your answer to the question.

16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

What do you find interesting about the women's question on the way to the tomb?

Explain what they saw in the tomb.

Why do you think the first thing the young man says is "Don't be alarmed"?

The young man identifies Jesus as *Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified*.

Why does he call him that?

"He has risen! He is not here." Describe how it must have felt to hear those words.

Why would *"See the place where they laid him"* be especially meaningful for these women?

"Go, tell his disciples and Peter..." Wasn't Peter one of the disciples?

Mark 14:27-28: "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Mark 16:7: "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

What things about Jesus does a comparison of the above statements teach you?

What is your favorite Lent hymn? Why is it your favorite?

What is your favorite Easter hymn? Why is it your favorite?