

By the time she reached Peter and John, Mary was out of breath and very upset. * She'd been running. 'They've taken Jesus,' she announced. 'I went to the tomb, but the stone's been moved from the entrance and the Lord's gone.' Distressed, Peter and John went running to the tomb. John got there first and saw the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in, abandoned inside. *



Peter rushed past John into the tomb. He saw the wrappings, but noticed that the cloth that had been on

Jesus' head was rolled up and placed on its own. John came in and saw it too. Neither of them understood the Scripture saying that Jesus must rise from the dead. Having seen the empty tomb, they went home. * Mary, who had followed after them, was too sad to go home. She stayed there, crying.

Through her tears, Mary could see into the tomb. She was shocked. There were angels in there now, sitting where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the feet. The angels spoke: 'Why are you crying?' 'They've taken away my Lord,' said Mary. 'I don't know where they've put him.' Mary glanced away from the tomb and saw another man standing there. 'Why are you crying?' the man asked her. 'Who are you looking for?' Thinking he was a gardener, Mary said, 'If you've taken him away, please tell me where he is.' The man replied with a single word: 'Mary!' As soon as he'd spoken it, Mary saw that the man was Jesus.

'Don't hold onto me, Mary,' Jesus said. 'Go and tell my brothers that I'm going up to my Father, to my God and your God.' And so Mary went running off again – this time to tell the disciples that she'd seen the Lord. **John 20.1-18**

* See *Share the Word*.