

THE EMPTY TOMB

After the Sabbath day, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to Jesus's tomb early in the morning. Guards were keeping watch over the tomb as Pilate had feared someone might steal Jesus's body.

As the women approached the tomb, they felt the earth shake terribly underneath them and suddenly they saw an angel of the Lord, dressed all in white, sitting on the stone door of the tomb. But, to their surprise, the stone had been rolled away from the opening of the tomb. The shaking of the ground, and the appearance of the angel scared the guards so badly they fainted!

Then the angel said to Mary and Mary Magdalene, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus who was crucified. But, He is not here. He has risen just as He said He would. Come and see the place where His body was. I also want you to tell His disciples that He has risen. Go to Galilee where you will see Him."

So Mary and Mary Magdalene left, and although they were afraid, they were filled with joy and went to find Jesus's disciples to tell them what they had seen. As they were on their way, suddenly, Jesus appeared to them and greeted them while on their journey. They stopped and worshiped Him. Jesus told them to not be afraid, but continue on to Galilee where Jesus said His disciples will see Him.

When the women had left the tomb, the guards that had fainted at the site of the angel woke up and told others what had happened to them — that they had seen an angel, and that Jesus was no longer in the tomb! But their leaders did not want the truth to be told, so they paid the guards money so that they would say that Jesus's body had been stolen, which was not the truth.