

# The Word

*one to one*

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# Episode 40

JOHN 11	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	Life (Jesus is risen)

# Can you believe it?

JOHN 20:1-18

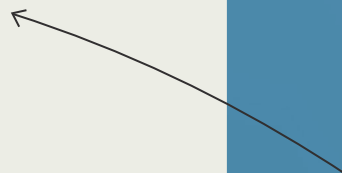
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*In the previous episode:  
A royal burial.*

*In this episode:  
Jesus rises from the  
dead - but did it  
really happen?*

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

<sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'



## The last thing they expect

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Jesus' death is not the end of the story. As you read through this episode, imagine that you are in a courtroom with the evidence being presented to you.

John provides at least three areas of evidence to show us that Jesus really did rise from the dead. Watch out for:

- Detailed eyewitness accounts.
  - Comments to show the disciples weren't expecting it (but should have been).
  - Proof that it really is Jesus risen from the dead.
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What evidence do we get that Mary wasn't expecting the resurrection?

- She comes running when she sees that the stone has been removed.  
**(v. 2)**
- She assumes that someone has taken Jesus' body away.

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

<sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

<sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.



What details does John include to show us that this really happened?

- *'Both were running...'* (v. 4)
- *'...the other disciple outran Peter...'*
- *'He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.'* (v. 5)

You can just see this happening.

*This is clear eyewitness testimony.*

<sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb.

He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

<sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

<sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.



## The empty tomb

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Peter and John have sprinted to the tomb. John hangs back at the entrance but Peter steps straight in. (v. 6)

He sees the cloth that had wrapped Jesus' head still lying there... more eyewitness evidence. (v. 7)

How do we know the disciples were not expecting Jesus to rise?

- Up until that moment they had no idea what was going on. Then John sees... and believes. (v. 8)
- They should have understood from the Old Testament that Jesus would rise from the dead, but it is only now that John gets it. (v. 9)

Notice that John sees and believes before he meets the risen Jesus. That's important.

*The empty tomb is enough!*

John had already told us back in chapter 2 that this is what happened: *'After [Jesus] was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.'* (John 2:22)

## The Old Testament connection

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The empty tomb shouldn't have been such a surprise. Just look at what the Old Testament had said would happen.

Psalms 16:10 (written around 1,000 years before) says:

*'Because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.'*

Isaiah 53:10-11 (written around 700 years before) says:

*'Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.'*

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**Iniquities:** another word for sins.

*The Old Testament was clear: the  
Messiah would live for ever after  
He had paid the price for our sin.*