John 20: 1-2, 11-18
On the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him."
Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping.
And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb
and saw two angels in white sitting there,
one at the head and one at the feet
where the Body of Jesus had been.
And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them, "They have taken my Lord,
and I don't know where they laid him."
When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there,
but did not know it was Jesus.
Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
Whom are you looking for?"
She thought it was the gardener and said to him,
"Sir, if you carried him away,
tell me where you laid him,
and I will take him."
Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew,
"Rabbouni," which means Teacher.
Jesus said to her,
"Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and tell them,
'I am going to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.'"
Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord,"
and then reported what he told her.

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**Our Scripture Reflection**

Why was the idea of the resurrection so difficult for the disciples to accept?

1. From the time they were children they had been taught by their trusted teachers that a resurrection would occur but only at the end of time when the Kingdom of God would come. And, at that time ALL PEOPLE would be raised together.

2. But Jesus was, indeed, raised from the dead. One man. They saw Him. So had the Kingdom come? How could it have come because there was still suffering, sin, death, those things that were opposed to the Kingdom continued.

It would take a radical change in thinking and living in order to accept the good news of Jesus’ resurrection.

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**Food for your Journey**

Did you notice in the text that the same question is repeated twice? The angels ask Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (20:13). And Jesus asks Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (20:15).

When we ponder this Ester story, perhaps it’s still the question before us: "Why are we weeping?" Why is there still such anguish in the world? Why are
we laboring on, burdened and living as though there has been no resurrection?

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You did, indeed, raise Your Son from the dead. Because of His resurrection I have the promise of new and eternal life when I take my last breath. I do believe, Lord. Give me all the Grace I need to live as a person who believes. Amen