

The Easter Story – Part 4

Following the cruel death of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea was granted permission from Pilate to take the body. Saddened to the core, Arimathea wrapped Jesus' body in a linen cloth and with his servant's help, they took him to a rocky tomb which was close by. Sombrely, a group of grieving women followed. Mary Magdalene was among the women and she felt this pain of grief so deeply: she had followed Jesus since the day he had healed her in Galilee. Now she watched as Jesus' dead body was placed in the tomb and a huge stone was rolled in front to block the entrance. Jesus had been betrayed, denied and now lay dead in a cold tomb. However, this was not the end of the story.

Something very strange happened on the morning of the third day. Mary Magdalene was with the women who returned to the tomb. Their footsteps on the stony path broke the stillness of the morning and the scent of blossom filled the air. On approaching the tomb, they stopped. They froze. In disbelief, they looked at the open tomb: the stone no longer guarded the entrance and had been rolled away.

Summoning up all their courage, the women nervously entered the rocky tomb. To their astonishment, an angel with a face like lightning and a robe as white as snow stood before them.

"Do not be afraid," the angel spoke, "Jesus has risen!"

Jubilantly, the women left the tomb and their grief had been replaced with elation. Filled with a new joy, they fled from the tomb to seek the disciples and tell them of the news.

In that very garden, Jesus appeared before the women and Mary rejoiced. That wasn't the only sighting people had of Jesus: disciples reportedly saw him again on the road to Emmaus, on a mountain and at a feast in Galilee. Jesus' prophecy was true: he died yet rose again.

It is a question of faith as to what you believe.