



I NEED JESUS. BUT WHERE IS HE?

*(John 20)*

# Mary Magdalene

She was at the tomb and saw  
the evidence. She misinterpreted.



# Mary's **OBSERVATION**

- stone = moved      body = missing



## Mary's **DEDUCTION**

- Jesus [body] is gone
  - someone took him
    - I am confused



# Mary's **TESTIMONY** (flawed)

- observation = correct
- conclusion = incorrect



## **RESPONSE (Peter/John)**

Her testimony did not **force** them to **believe** but did **inspire** them to **investigate**.



These disciples did not understand the earlier prophecies of Jesus, but their investigation did lead them to accept what they COULD understand.

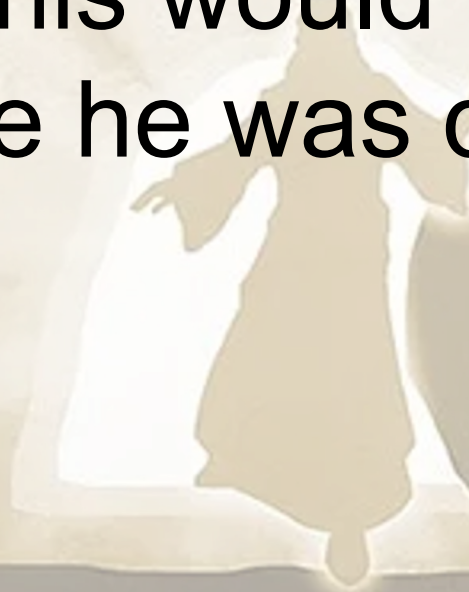
- a) Christ had not been abducted
- b) Christ had actually returned to life.

It is the nature of our God given free will that testimony (verbal or written) cannot force someone to believe.

It is the nature of our God given intellect that personal investigation does lead to belief.



TEARS. Having experienced the love and power of Christ (*Lk. 8:2*), Mary was crushed that this would no longer be available since he was dead.



Her tears surely were expressing  
**GRIEF, HOPELESSNESS (future) and  
DISAPPOINTMENT.**

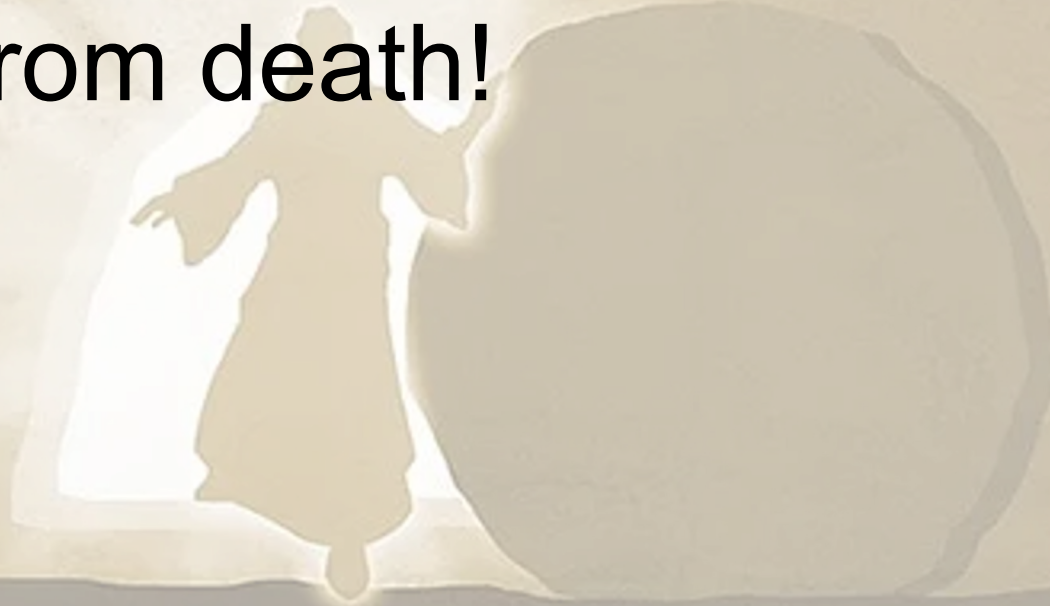


She saw Jesus but did not recognize him.

Why not? Possibilities:

- ✓ not expecting this
- ✓ body appeared different (last saw him beaten and bloody)
- ✓ tears... blurred vision
- ✓ prevented by divine power  
(*cf. Luke 24:16*)

In spite of his **predictions**, none of his friend/disciples **expected** Jesus to return from death!



Mary was not waiting to meet Jesus.  
She was grieving.

\* With a single word, Jesus opened Mary's eyes! When she heard her name from the "gardener," she realized that the **impossible** had actually **happened!**

Jesus stopped her from “hanging on” to him. This rebuke was about a new reality they now needed to understand. He would soon depart and not be here physically. They must accept this.



His followers would simply have  
a message and a power to lean on.  
He was returning to heaven.

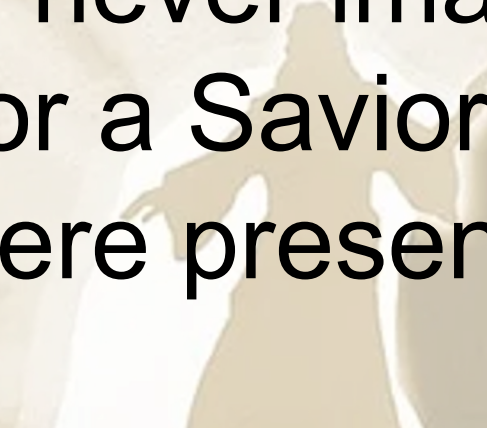


Because Jesus is risen, his **physical presence** is not necessary.

- He is with us everywhere at all times and circumstances.
- We do not need to hold on to him (by sight) since he holds on to us.



God's new reality was both **greater** and **different** than the reality Mary had previously known! (She never imagined a resurrection or a Savior who was everywhere present to all people.)

A silhouette of a woman in a white robe stands in the entrance of a cave. A large, dark stone is rolled away from the entrance, and a bright light emanates from the opening, creating a strong backlighting effect on the woman's figure. The background consists of layered, wavy shapes in shades of beige and tan, suggesting a landscape or the interior of a cave.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be opened so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance, and the inconceivable power for us who believe. That **power** is like the **working** of his **mighty strength** which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms. (*Eph. 1:18-20*)

# QUESTIONS FROM JESUS *(vs. 13)*



**Who are you looking for?**

The solution for my needs  
is not **something**, but **someone**.

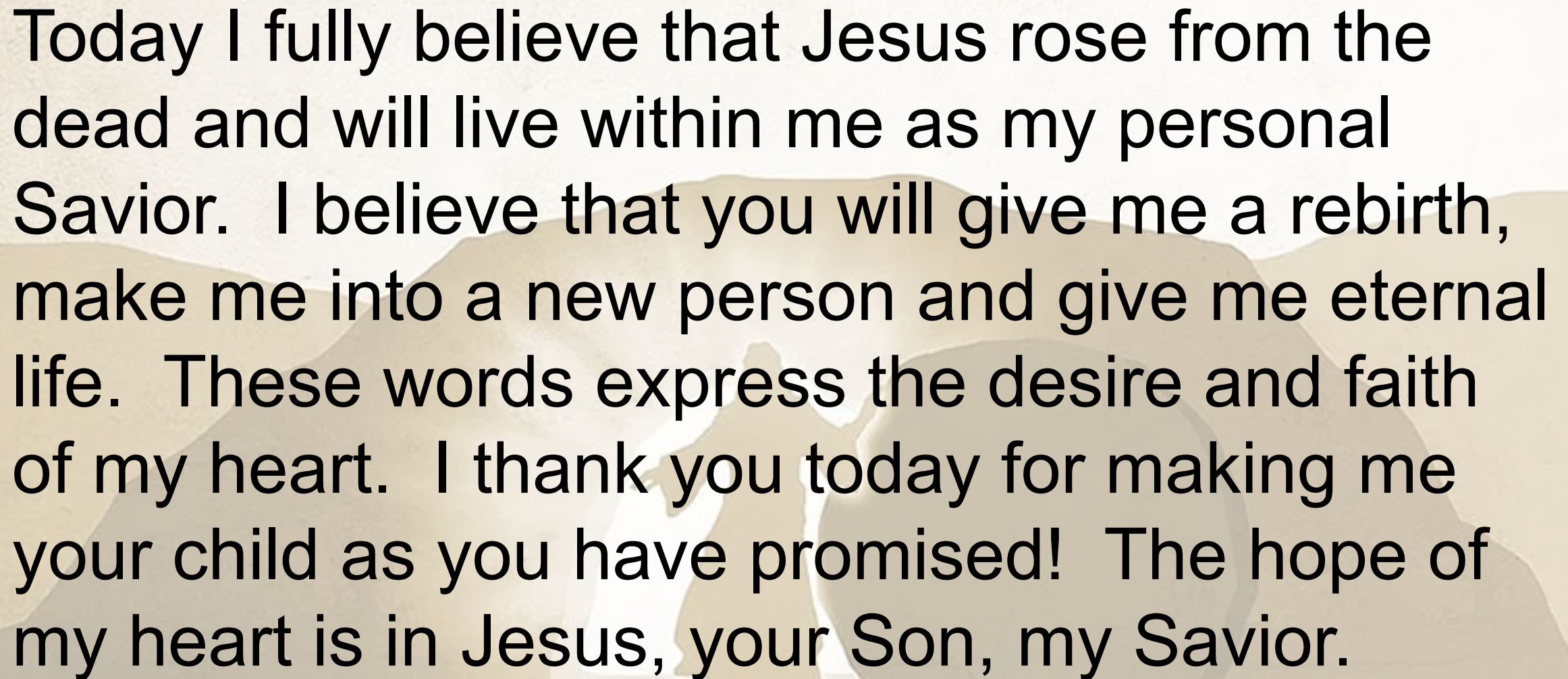


**Why are you crying?**

You have been a mourner long enough.  
It's now time to be a missionary.



**Heavenly Father**, like Mary at the tomb,  
I acknowledge my failure, disappointment,  
sins, and confusion. I also have seen your  
evidence but jumped to the wrong  
conclusions. Today I realize that Jesus died  
for my sins and therefore believe in my heart  
that you will forgive every sin because of my  
asking, my trusting, and my repentance.



Today I fully believe that Jesus rose from the dead and will live within me as my personal Savior. I believe that you will give me a rebirth, make me into a new person and give me eternal life. These words express the desire and faith of my heart. I thank you today for making me your child as you have promised! The hope of my heart is in Jesus, your Son, my Savior.

Amen.