Day 14

Just to recap the events so far. Jesus was arrested in the garden, betrayed by one of his own men. All of his followers fled the garden. After a mock trial, and an even greater mockery of justice before Pilate, Jesus was handed over to be crucified.

He was mercilessly taunted, while he suffered, and finally bowed his head and died.

His body was taken down. He was wrapped in a linen sheet and laid in a borrowed tomb until after the Shabbat, where his remains could be properly attended to; anointing and burial.

* Just another crucifixion for the Romans!
* Just another threat eliminated for the Sanhedrin!
* Just another failed, but much loved revolutionary for his followers!

Life goes on! Or does it…

**John 20:1-10**

***20****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.****2****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!”*

***3****So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.****4****Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.****5****He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.****6****Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,****7****as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.****8****Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.****9****(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)****10****Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.*

Wouldn’t you love to have been a fly on the wall of the place where they were staying… as Jesus followers tried to make sense of what was happening.

I imagine all sorts of outrage, denial, conspiracy theories, arguments, stress and grief.

There’s a statement in this text that seems unusual. The first disciple to reach the tomb (many scholars suggest this is John) belatedly entered. “He saw and believed”. But then it says that “they still not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead”.

So what did he believe? That the body of Jesus had been stolen? That wouldn’t be hard to believe!

That something big was happening, something beyond their imagination? That wouldn’t have been hard to believe!

When John uses the word ‘believe’, he conveys ‘to have confidence in’

In John 20:30

***30****Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.****31****But these are written that you may believe[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26899b)*] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

The full extent of what God was doing in the resurrection wasn’t quite clear, but God was doing something!

There’s no record that the disciple to reach the tomb first spoke about his belief. Maybe for him it was a quiet confidence amidst the outrage, conspiracy theories, arguments, stress and grief.