

Couldn't keep a dead man dead: the Easter story told by two who were there
To be told as a first person account by two older women, perhaps seated together in the congregation

By David Radcliff

Lois: Mary, I remember it like it was yesterday. I guess something like that you never forget.

Mary: Yes, Lois, me too. It's funny how I can't remember what I had for breakfast, but the events of that morning over forty years ago are still as clear as a bell.

Lois: We weren't really expecting anything when we went to the tomb at first light—why would we? They had put the master on that cross two days earlier—and for anyone else that would be the end of the story.

Mary: So true, Lois. We were still grieving from the events of the week before. The one we'd been following for all that time; the one we'd come to love as a brother and friend—he was gone. I remember feeling a tremendous sense of void—just emptiness—as we made our way through the dim morning light to the place where they had buried him.

Lois: I know what you mean—me too. It was like all our hopes had been dashed. Only a few days earlier they had been so high—and then came Friday...and Saturday...

Mary: But then Sunday! You know, I guess in some ways it was a good thing that we were doing what women always do in at the time of death—left to care for the body of our loved one. If we hadn't had that somber task, we wouldn't have been the first ones to know the good news!

Lois: You're right! And even then the men didn't want to believe us! "Idle tale," they said. I guess we can't be too hard on them—after all, they're only men. But anyone would have their doubts at a moment like that—these things just don't happen!

Mary: No they don't—although once it did, we suddenly remembered the many times he'd told us it would happen just like this—I guess we just never believed he'd die—much less be resurrected.

Lois: Well, things really took off after that! You saw the Lord yourself; the disciples saw the empty tomb; the Lord met us at the lakeshore—we ate fish together just like old times!

Mary: And suddenly we all found the courage to openly say that Jesus was God's Son—and that we were going to keep following him and sharing his message, no matter what!

Lois: Yes, I think we saw that they weren't as powerful as they thought they were—

Mary: They couldn't even keep a dead man dead!

Lois: And we weren't going to let them keep us down either—we were alive! And we and our world weren't going to be the same anymore!

Mary: The Lord is risen!

Lois: He is risen indeed!

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New Community Project