**John 20:1-10 Now the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” 3Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. 4So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. 5And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there;* yet he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there,* 7and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. 9For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10Then the disciples went away again to their own homes**.

 Our walk with Jesus is about our faith, our willingness to believe what we cannot see, our determination to serve though we often don’t understand. In verse 8, John saw and believed. He didn’t see the Risen Savior at that moment. He saw the empty tomb and he believed.

 2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us to walk by faith, not by sight. Blessed are those who choose to follow Jesus in spite of what they cannot see. Blessed are those who choose to move Him from head to heart. Blessed are those who choose to model Jesus in speech, the way we encourage one another, in the places we go, in the witness we provide in spite of what the world says.

 Consider Peter for a moment. He’d denied Jesus. The Teacher he’d followed for 3 years had been arrested, tried, crucified, died. His world, all he believed, his whole identity had seemingly been crushed in 3 short days. Doubts assailed. Fear gripped. Shame abounded. Guilt goaded. Yet, when faced with hope based on Mary’s words, he ran to the tomb. Notice that John stops – perhaps with reverence or in awe. Peter, impetuous Peter, loving with his whole heart, still seeking the Master, boldly goes into the tomb. This shows Peter’s true heart. He denied Jesus with his lips, but Peter still clings to Jesus in his heart.

 In John 20:29, we read, “Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” On this wonderful day as we celebrate the empty tomb and the Risen Christ - blessed are those who choose to believe. Blessed are those who cling to Jesus when the storms of life are threatening. Choose this day where to place your faith – the world or the Word, the culture or the Cross, self or the Savior? Blessed are we who believe that the tomb was empty and Christ still reigns. Blessed are we who pray expectantly each morning, eye on the horizon, believing He will soon return and lay our head down each night believing that tomorrow may just be The Day.