

## The First Easter Marathon

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

John 20:1-8

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why do people visit the gravesites of their loved ones and friends? What is so important about it?
2. Read John 20:1-8. It was a chaotic morning when the Son of God, Jesus, was resurrected from the dead. It was like there was a “fun run” where three types of people were running. The first runner is running for necessity (v.1-2). It was on a Sunday when women, including Mary Magdalene, came to put spices on the body of Jesus as part of their culture. What did Mary Magdalene find out when she went to Jesus’ tomb (v.1)? What did Mary tell to Peter and to the other disciples (v.2)?
3. Mary must have been confused that she forgot what Jesus said about His resurrection. Her intention to visit the tomb of Jesus or her love for Him was definitely not questionable, but she was running out of necessity. What did she forget about the significance of the empty tomb? How can a lot of Christians relate to her? Discuss the possible things Christians do for God because they think that they are necessary. What do they miss when they live this kind of life? How do you think the Lord Jesus feels when the people He died for simply live life out of necessity?
4. The second runner is running because of obligations (v. 3-5). How did Peter and John react to what Mary told them (v.3)? Why do you think John, who won the foot race and came to the tomb first, didn’t go in to the tomb (v.4)? Discuss how many Christians can relate to John who ran out to the tomb just because of his sense of obligation to do so. How come there is no real life transformation to those who claim to be the first to do something for God, or to those who claim to have read the Bible so many times or pray before meals as a sense of obligation? What

other things do Christians do for God out of obligation? What does winning races in the Christian life out of obligation produce? What is the most important thing to do in order to experience real life transformation?

5. The third runner is running with purpose (v.6-8). Peter who arrived later than John went right into the tomb. What did he find out when he arrived at the tomb (v.6-7)? Discuss why it would have been impossible for the grave robbers to steal Jesus’ body? What’s the significance of the linen or grave clothes that were neatly folded in the tomb? How do you think this experience in the tomb changed Peter’s life? John eventually went in. How did he respond to what he discovered in the tomb?

### Walk

All three runners saw exactly the same scene – an empty tomb. The first runner ran out of necessity and was so worried about the body that she missed the bigger picture. The second ran out of obligation and was not sure what to make out of it and so he stayed outside. The third ran with purpose. He saw and believed! If you were Mary, Peter or John what reactions or thoughts would have run through your mind when you discovered the empty tomb? Peter went home satisfied after seeing what he went to see and begun the restoration of his life as he lived for Christ. Would you respond to Christ’s resurrection in the same manner? As you run the race with Christ in your life, would it influence others and would they cheer and say that He indeed arose? Resurrection also means transformation of lives. May the resurrected Savior give you the renewed desire to live with purpose.

### Worship & Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding us of the finished work of Jesus on the cross. It is through Him that we can look at our past and appreciate the fact that we have been forgiven completely, that we can look at our future and be excited for the happening of our blessed hope, and that we can look at our present and realize that we can live our lives with a purpose – to honor the One who died and resurrected to make all these benefits possible. Fill our hearts with gratitude and empower us to live for the glory of His name.*