As Mary Magdalene approached the tomb where Jesus’ body had been placed, she discovered the stone blocking the entrance had been rolled away. She was alarmed that the tomb was empty. How could that happen?

She ran out looking for someone to provide her with information. She found the disciples, Peter and John. “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and I don’t know where they have taken him”, she said.

Upon hearing this, the disciples ran to the tomb to see. Peter and John entered the tomb, and saw neat and orderly grave clothes and laying on the "bed" of the tomb. They believed that Mary’s report was true, and that something awesome and incredibly unique had happened. The arrangement of the grave clothes showed that this was no grave robbery and that something absolutely unique had happened in that now-empty tomb.

Why is this tomb so great, so important? Simply because it is empty!
The person who occupied it, Jesus, a humble carpenter of Nazareth, is no longer there. He was executed for making extravagant claims. He claimed to be the Son of God. It didn’t dawn on the disciples that Jesus had predicted this. When they leave the tomb they leave it confused.

After the disciples leave, Mary stands outside the tomb weeping. She sees two angels in the tomb and then she sees Jesus. She doesn’t recognize him until Jesus says her name. Once Mary recognizes Jesus she realizes at least one truth that the empty tomb is conveying. Jesus lives and He is among the living and not the dead.

People often ask, “Why was the stone rolled away?” Well, the stone was not rolled away for Him to come out. The stone was rolled away so that we could look in. It was rolled away so that the empty tomb could be visible to all. The empty tomb is the greatest evidence of the resurrection of Jesus. Critics have tried to explain it away, and they have not been able to. The empty tomb still stands, as evidence to all that Jesus is not dead. He is alive today. The resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our faith. Easter means victory. Victory over death, hell and the grave! It means hope of a better life! It means joy! The resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our faith!

The empty tomb and the resurrection remind us that this physical life is not all that there is. We do not need to eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we may die. Life is more than affluence, wealth and comfort. Because of the resurrection, we can lift our attention from ourselves and shift it to others. Sharing and serving are marks of faith in Christ—faith in the truth of the resurrection.

That’s what Easter is all about! In that lies our joy and hope. We’re redeemed and forgiven people! And now in that joy and hope our risen Lord calls upon us to believe it and act upon it! It turns night into day, despair into hope, and death into life. "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." He wants you to let Him live at the center of your life right now – giving you purpose and meaning, hope and healing, peace, pardon, and power in the face of everything else. He wants to be the risen Lord of your life.

The words, “He is not here, but He is risen”, changed the course of history! And they continue to do so." This is what love is," said John the apostle. "It is not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven."