As Jesus Hung on the cross, he said "It is finished." But, what was it that was finished?

After taking on all of our sins, beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane, through all the beatings, and finally while hanging on the cross, the words "It is finished" did not mean that Jesus was totally finished. In fact, what Jesus had accomplished was providing for our redemption. He had borne our punishment. Settled our debt. Torn down the wall of separation between God and us. And, in forgiving our sins, removed the wrath that God had toward those sins. But, Jesus was not finished yet.

When Mary Magdalene and the disciples came to the tomb of Jesus, what did they see? Emptiness. No body. The linen wrappings for burial that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had wrapped the body of Jesus in so lovingly, were now empty. He had risen from the dead. The tomb was empty. Jesus was not finished yet.

As Peter and John stooped to look into the tomb, they noticed something as their eyes adjusted to the darkness. Curious, they stepped into the tomb. There, something wonderful was folded ever so neatly. It was the face cloth that had been placed over the face of Jesus.

Why is this important? So important that once the disciples saw it, they believed?

God never wastes words. Everything in His Word, the Bible, is inspired and for a purpose. Every detail. He is a God of the details. The folded napkin or face cloth was a sign for these believers. It instantly brought them hope and joy. Their hearts were full now. Full of faith.

Tradition held that when the master of the house sat down to eat, everything was in perfect order and in its perfect place. The servants, once they had set the table, were never allowed to touch that table again until there was a sign signifying that the master had finished his meal.
What sign? When the master had finished, he would wipe his face, fingers, and beard, then throw the once neatly folded napkin on the table in a wrinkled mess. This used and discarded napkin told the servants the master was finished. But, if the master once again folded the napkin and neatly placed it on the table, it meant he was not finished and was coming back again.

Once dead, a body cannot fold a napkin. Once dead, but alive again, Jesus folded the napkin and left it on the table to say, "Gentlemen, I am alive and not through yet". Jesus was not finished. He was coming back.

Tomorrow, we will see what Mary saw as she looked in the tomb again.