

The First Eyewitnesses

FIRST VISIT TO THE SEPULCHRE

Mark 16:1-8

- 1 And when the sabbath was past, **Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome** had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.
- 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.
- 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?
- 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.
- 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they **saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.**
- 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.
- 7 **But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee:** there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.
- 8 **And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they anything to any man; for they were afraid.**

Luke 24:1-11

- 1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and **certain others with them.**
- 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.
- 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
- 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, **behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:**
- 5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?
- 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,
- 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, **and the third day rise again.**
- 8 And they remembered his words,
- 9 **And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.**
- 10 It was **Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women** that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.
- 11 **And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.**
- 12 **Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre;** and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

John 20:1-3

- 1 **The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early,** when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.
- 2 **Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.**
- 3 **Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.** (Luke 24:12)

Matthew 28:1-10

- 1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, **came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.**
- 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for **the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.**
- 3 **His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:**
- 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.
- 5 **And the angel answered and said unto the women,** Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.
- 6 **He is not here: for he is risen,** as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
- 7 **And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead;** and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

The woman were leaving from their first visit in verse 7. In verse 8, they are leaving from the second visit. This appearance from the Lord happened shortly after the 2nd visit to the sepulchre between verse 7 and 8, otherwise they wouldn't have said we know not where he is in John 20:2.

- 8 And **they departed quickly** from the sepulchre with fear **and great joy;** and **did run to bring his disciples word.**
- 9 And **as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.**
- 10 **Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.**

❖ John 20:1-3 Mary Clearly had Not Seen the Lord at This Time

- 1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.
- 2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, **They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.**
- 3 **Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.**

❖ Luke 24:9-12 The Other Women are Present at First Witness to the Disciples

- 9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.
- 10 It was **Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James**, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.
- 11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.
- 12 **Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre;** and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

Luke 24:22-24 Cleopas Testimony of the Women on the Road to Emmaus

22 And certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. 24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

John 20:3-6

- 3 **Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.** (Luke 24:12)
- 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.
- 5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.
- 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY - FIRST EYEWITNESS

John 20:10-18

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

Mark 16:9-11

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

JESUS APPEARS TO ALL THE WOMEN

Matthew 28:5-10

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

❖ Matthew combines both encounters at tomb as one continuous event. Should be separated here.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

❖ Mary gathers the other women to go again unto the disciples and without doubt tells them that she has now seen the Lord. On the way to witness the apostles that Mary had indeed seen the Lord, Jesus appeared to all the women, and they fell down and held Him by His feet and worshipped Him.

❖ **Mark 16:11**

And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

ORDER OF EVENTS

1. The women visit the sepulchre for the first time and see that the stone had been rolled away. Then two angels give them instructions to go and declare to the disciples that Jesus is risen from the dead. (Matt 28:1-8), (Luke 24:1-10), (Mark 16:1-8), (John 20:1-2)
2. In obedience Mary Magdalene and the other woman go and tell the disciples that the tomb was empty and that two angels had witnessed to them that Christ had risen from the dead. In doing so, they were met with great unbelief. (Luke 24:9-11),(Luke 24:22-24)
3. Upon hearing the first testimony from the women, Peter and John immediately run to the sepulchre with the women following. Peter and John inspect the tomb and then leave to their own home. (Luke 24:12, 24) (John 20:3-10)
4. After Peter and John leave the sepulchre, Mary and the other women continue remain there for a time. As Mary stood at the sepulchre weeping, she stooped down to look inside and sees two angels. She then turns around and speaks with whom she believes is a gardener, whom in fact is the Lord himself. This was indeed the very first appearance. (Mark 16:9), (John 14-18) The other women where somewhere in the vicinity, but the nature of this eyewitness was personal for Mary. Jesus instructs her to “go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.” (John 20:17)
5. Mary gathers the other women to go again unto the disciples and without doubt tells them that she has now seen the Lord. On the way to witness to the apostles that she had indeed seen the Lord, Jesus appeared to all the women, and they fell down and held Him by His feet and worshipped Him.(Matt 28:8-10) Of course the disciples did not believe them. (Mark 16:9-11)

The First Eyewitnesses - The Women

MARY MAGDALENE

Mary Magdalene traveled with Christ in his ministry, ministering to him of her substance. She was a woman that was delivered of seven devils She came from the town of Magdala. The Jews used "Magdala" to denote a person with twisted or platted hair; a usage of women of loose character.

MARY – SISTER OF VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF JAMES THE LESS AND WIFE OF CLEOPHAS

John 19:25

25 Now there stood by the cross of **Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas,** and Mary Magdalene.

Matthew 27:54-56

54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and **Mary the mother of James and Joses,** and the mother of Zebedee's children.

JOANNA

Joanna was a very wealthy woman who also traveled with Christ in His ministry, ministering to him of her substance. She was the wife of Chuza, Herod's Chief steward.

Luke 8:1-3

1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, **Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,**

3 And **Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward,** and Susanna, and many others, **which ministered unto him of their substance.**

SALOME – MOTHER OF JAMES & JOHN (HER SON JAMES KILLED BY HEROD AGRIPPA)

Matthew 27:56

56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and **the mother of Zebedee's children.**

Matthew 20:20-21

20 Then came to him **the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons,** worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, **Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.**

Acts 12:1-2

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And **he killed James the brother of John with the sword.**