

# **The Resurrection of Our Lord**

A harmonized account of all four gospels compiled by: Jeremy Schooler

## **The Scene...**

I assume that the guards would have intended to stay at the tomb until sunset Sunday. This is not an overly important thought that has little effect on the outcome of the events. It's just my thought that if the intention was to keep the disciples from being able to claim that Jesus rose after three days/nights, it makes sense to guard against that for beyond that time by a day, at least. Matthew says that the Jewish leaders asked Pilate to guard the tomb "until the third day". It is often assumed that meant the third day after the crucifixion. But perhaps that meant the third day from that moment that they are standing there asking Pilate the question.

If the guards leave after only three days/nights from the crucifixion, then the disciples steal the body away, the claim could still be made that Jesus had risen "after three days" (Mt. 27:63). If that happened the guards work would have been ineffectual. However, if the guards were told to stay for three days/nights from the time they were appointed (the day after the crucifixion), then it would not be possible for the disciples to make such a claim. This also brings clarity as to why the guards immediately reported what happened when they were scared away. They had failed to finish the last night and day of their duty. If they were commanded to stay three days/nights from the crucifixion, then their duty was completed at sunset Saturday. However, if they were commanded to stay three days/nights from the time they were appointed, then their duty was to stay through Sunday.

Concerning the ladies wanting to go to the tomb on Sunday morning, remember the guard's job is not to stop someone from seeing or anointing the body. Their job is to stop the possibility of claiming Jesus had risen. Given the women's questioning "who will roll away the stone", as they went to the tomb, they obviously did not have high hopes that the guards would be moving the stone for them.

The scene that Sunday morning could be summarized by saying that it's a very uncertain and difficult time. However, there were a group of women that truly loved this man they called Lord. They really wanted to honor Him by properly preparing His dead body.

## **The Short Version...**

Mary Magdalene, the "other Mary", Salome and perhaps other women all go to the tomb to prepare the body. They find the empty tomb, meet the angels, and go to John and Peter. After telling John & Peter, the other women (Luke 24:10) go and tell the other disciples. However, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go back to the tomb following John and Peter. John and Peter come to the tomb to investigate the women's claims, then they exit and leave. As John and Peter leave, or perhaps shortly after, Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb first and the other Mary shortly after her. Magdalene, overwhelmed and weeping, stands outside and peers into the tomb and sees the angels inside. They engage her in questions. Then she turns to meet Jesus face to face. Then shortly after, the other Mary arrives and sees Jesus too. They both worship Him, but Jesus tells them to "go and tell My brethren". The ladies then go and tell Matthew and the other disciples.

## The Long Version...

Read along as we follow the gospel writers as they tell the story of the most important event in all of Christendom! First, I have laid out the gospels side by side along with some notes dealing with various issues. This makes it possible to compare them as you read. However, this is a bit complicated for just reading through as a story. So, below this side by side approach, you will find what I call the story version. Then beyond that you will find a simple timeline chart to make things very simple as a quick reference.

### Note:

Keep in mind, as always when reading and harmonizing the gospels, each writer has their own point of view. Luke was not there and is reporting as a historian. They don't all have every detail or attempt to sync their stories together. That writers did not attempt to collaborate their stories adds to the veracity of the accounts. They each simply give an account. Bringing the separate accounts together is a rich experience that I hope will encourage you in studying the Word of God.

You'll notice that while Luke may mention it, John's account is the only one that gives us the details of John and Peter going to the tomb. However, if the only account we had was John's, we could think that Mary Magdalene was the only woman that went to the tomb. That is not the case. Similarly, if all we had was Luke's account, we could think that Peter was the only disciple who went to the tomb. Each account given is accurate and is a sufficient telling of the events. Nevertheless, Listening to all four accounts and collaborating them together gives us a richer and fuller understanding of that glorious morning!

<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<b>Matthew only speaks of his point of view pertaining to how it happened to him. In other words, he is not reporting the things that happened to others. He is reporting the things that affected him.</b>	<b>Mark is very focused on communicating that people didn't believe the reports of the risen Lord. He communicates that this happened, and they came and told people, but they didn't believe.</b>	<b>Luke was not witness to the events on the day of. Luke comes into the mix later on and reports as a historian.</b>	<b>John only speaks of Mary Magdalene, Peter and himself. He does not mention that Mary is <u>ever</u> with anyone else (John, the "other Mary(s)" or other women). Mt. 28:1, Mr. 16:1, Lu 24:10)</b>

<b>Wednesday</b> Just before sunset.			
<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
Mt 27:61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.	Mr 15:47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.	Lu 23:55 And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid.	
<b>Thursday</b> High Sabbath			
<p>62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,</p> <p>63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'</p> <p>64 "Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."</p> <p>65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."</p> <p>66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.</p>			

For three days/nights from that time (Thursday, the High Sabbath). Meaning the guards would stay through Sunday until sunset.			
<b>Friday</b>			
<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
	Mr 16:1 Now when the [high] Sabbath (Thursday) was past, <b>Mary Magdalene</b> , Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. (when they could on Sunday) <b>This happens on Friday.</b>	Lu. 23:56a Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils.	
<b>Saturday</b>			
		56b And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. <i>Rested on the normal Saturday Sabbath.</i>	
<b>Sunday</b> Before sunrise			
			John 20:1a Now on the first day of the week <b>Mary Magdalene</b> <u>went</u> to the tomb early, <u>while it was still dark</u> , <i>Mark 16:2 says "they came" (see note at Mark 16:2) "when the sun had risen". John here says Mary "went" "while it was still dark". Matthew 28:1 says "as the day began to dawn", they "came". Luke says, "very early in the morning", they "came".</i>

			<p><b><i>Came &amp; went. Two different English words. Timing, before sunrise, or after?</i></b></p> <p><b><i>The Greek word translated to either “came” or “went” for all four is the same word. According the Strong’s definition it can mean “to come or go” and has a “great variety of applications”. The word is used to say both that “I am going” and “I have come” to a place. In my experience, this is common in the Greek. A word can have a varied use. Therefore, the context is useful for the details. Perhaps the translators left us a hint in the use of the different English words they choose. What is the context the Greek word is used in? Are their timing details that can be seen in that context? Yes, absolutely. The context cannot be ignored!</i></b></p> <p><b><i>This is understood as John saying here that Mary Magdalene began walking, started to go, or “went” to the tomb before sunrise. Note: That does not mean she was alone, only that she started traveling. She very well could have been accompanied by the others as</i></b></p>
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			<p><i>the other gospels seem to indicate.</i></p> <p><i>Then according to Matthew and Mark “they” arrived or “came to the tomb” just at or after sunrise – “began to dawn” (Matthew 28:1) or “when the sun had risen” (Mark 16:2).</i></p> <p><i>Luke’s statement is more generic saying “very early in the morning”.</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p>At or just after sunrise</p>			
<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<p>Mt 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.</p> <p><i>(Perhaps there are even more women there? See Luke 24:10. This would allow for the writers to use the word “they” when speaking of the women going to the tomb. It also allows for the women to separate after seeing the empty tomb.</i></p> <p><i>In any case, following after John &amp; Peter, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go back to the tomb and see the Lord (Mt. 28:9-10 and Jn. 20:11-17) while the other women go and tell the other disciples)</i></p>	<p>2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they <u>came</u> to the tomb when the sun had risen.</p> <p><i>Should we assume “they” means all three mentioned in v. 1? I think we must. Also, John 20:1 “it was still dark” when Magdalene “went”, must be reconciled. Challengers would say this is a contradiction. That is not the case and is simply understood.</i></p> <p><i>While I disagree (see my note on John 20:1a), it could be said that this is reconciled in that Magdalene comes to the tomb by herself, before the others, and before sunrise. Therefore, John is reporting that she, by herself, arrived at the tomb before dawn, although he</i></p>	<p>Lu 24:1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.</p> <p><i>Some like to separate the women into several groups. I do not think that it is necessary to do so. However, there is nothing that says that it’s not the case either.</i></p> <p><i>For me, a simple reading through seems to indicate these women were with or very near each other in the beginning. Although, I do think it is likely that at some point, after seeing the empty tomb, some of the “other women” split off from the</i></p>	

<p><b><u>Parenthetical statement:</u></b></p> <p>2 And behold, there was a great earthquake (<i>or had already been an earthquake, see Adam Clarke &amp; Jamieson, Fausset, Brown comments</i>); for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.</p> <p>3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.</p> <p>Mt. 28:4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.</p>	<p><i>does not actually say that. But the thought is that she, long before dawn, begins her solemn walk to the tomb to meet the other ladies. All before the sun had risen, she arrives at the tomb, and waits by herself. Then some of the other ladies meet her after the sun had risen.</i></p> <p><i>Or, this can also be reconciled as noted under John's account. Mark talks here of when they arrived at the tomb, and John speaks of when they started walking. This approach is easy to reconcile, and it gives even more depth of detail to the timeline by giving two items – the start and the arrival times.</i></p>	<p><i>two Marys and started telling other disciples near and around the area.</i></p> <p><i>See the following chronology and explanations.</i></p>	
<p><i>The women come later, after the guards are gone. But the women don't know the they're gone before they get to the tomb.</i></p>			
	<p>Mr. 16:3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"</p> <p><i>They do not seem to expect that the guards will roll the stone for them. I do not think that anyone expected the guards to be very helpful with anything.</i></p>		

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
	<p>4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away--for it was very large.</p>	<p>Lu. 24:2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.</p>	<p>John 20:1b and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.</p>
<p>5 But the angel (<i>that had moved the stone and scared the guards</i>) answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.</p>			
	<p>5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.</p> <p><b>Mark here says, "a young man". Luke says, "two men" (Lu. 24:4). This is not a contradiction. Mark does not say there was only the one, nor does Luke say there was only the two. In either case, there could have been even more than this one or two. I'd say there's at least three – the one sitting that Mark mentions and the two standing that Luke mentions.</b></p>	<p>3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men (<i>see note for Mr. 16:5</i>) stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,</p>	

	<p>Mr. 16:6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.</p> <p>7 "But go, tell His disciples-- and Peter—<i>(specifically says Peter)</i> that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."</p> <p><b>This is why John and Peter are the first men disciples to be told.</b></p>	<p>7 "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"</p>	
		<p>Lu. 24:8 And they remembered His words.</p>	
<p><b>And it blew their minds!</b></p> <p><b>Imagine how this would affect you in the moment. This is the greatest epiphany moment of all time!</b></p> <p><b>Their ability to process and deal with what was going on would be greatly affected!</b></p>			
<p>Mt. 28:7 "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."</p>			
<p>8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.</p>	<p>Mr. 16:8a So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed.</p>		
	<p>16:8b And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. <b>I think it is very important to try to put yourself in their situation. They are so afraid and amazed that they don't tell anyone along the way.</b></p>		<p>Jn. 20:2 Then 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</p>

	<p><b>They are the first witnesses of the most amazing display of God's power to mankind ever! Imagine the thoughts and feelings racing through their minds!</b></p>		<p>of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."</p> <p>Jn. 20:3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.</p> <p>4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.</p> <p>5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.</p> <p>6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,</p> <p>7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.</p> <p>8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.</p> <p>9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.</p> <p>10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.</p>
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Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
	<p>Mr. 16:9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.</p>		<p>11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.  12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.  Jn. 20:13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."  14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.  15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."  16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).</p>

			17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"
<p>9 And as they went to tell His disciples, (<i>Matthew, etc.</i>) behold, Jesus met them (at the tomb), saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.</p> <p>10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."</p> <p><b>Afterwards, the Marys go and tell Matthew and others. Perhaps Matthew is not with the group of disciples that were told by the "other women".</b></p>	<p><b>(After Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb, then the "other Mary" followed shortly after her. They had told two disciples and still needed to go tell others. Mt. 28:9-10)</b></p>		
<p><b>The Marys are traveling back and forth from the tomb, while "they were going" to tell the disciples – Matthew, and others. It is during that time that the guards get around to reporting happenings.</b></p> <p>11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and</p>			

<p>reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.</p> <p>12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,</p> <p>13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'</p> <p>14 "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."</p> <p>15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.</p>			
	<p>Mr. 16:10 She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.</p> <p>Mr. 16:11 And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.</p> <p><i>No one believed them at first. Only John is reported as believing once he went into the tomb.</i></p>	<p>Lu. 24:9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.</p> <p>Lu. 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.</p> <p>11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.</p>	<p>18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.</p>

		<p><b><i>Parenthetical statement</i></b>  <i>Out of order chronologically speaking, but not untrue.</i></p> <p>12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.</p>	
	<p>Mr. 16:12 After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.</p> <p>13 And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.</p>	<p>Lu 24:13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.</p> <p>14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.</p> <p>15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.</p> <p>16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.</p> <p>17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"</p> <p>18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things</p>	

		<p>which happened there in these days?"</p> <p>Lu. 24:19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,</p> <p>20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.</p> <p>21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.</p> <p>22 "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.</p> <p>23 "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.</p> <p>24 "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."</p> <p>25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart</p>	
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		<p>to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!</p> <p>Lu. 24:26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"</p> <p>27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.</p> <p>28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.</p> <p>29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.</p> <p>30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.</p> <p>31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.</p> <p>32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while</p>	
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		<p>He opened the Scriptures to us?"</p> <p>33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,</p> <p>34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"</p> <p>Lu. 24:35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.</p>	
	<p>Mr. 16:14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.</p>	<p>Lu 24:36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."</p> <p>37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.</p> <p>38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"</p> <p>39 "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."</p> <p>40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.</p>	<p>Joh 20:19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."</p> <p>20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.</p> <p>21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."</p> <p>22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and</p>

		<p>41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"</p> <p>42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.</p> <p>43 And He took it and ate in their presence.</p>	<p>said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."</p>
			<p>24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.</p> <p>25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."</p>
<p>Mt. 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.</p> <p>17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.</p>			
			<p>Joh. 20:26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being</p>

			<p>shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"          Joh. 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."          28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"          29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."</p>
<p>Mt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.          19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,          20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.</p>	<p>Mr. 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.          16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.          17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;          18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay</p>	<p>Lu 24:44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."          45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.          46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,</p>	

	<p>hands on the sick, and they will recover."</p>	<p>Lu. 24:47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.  48 "And you are witnesses of these things.  49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."</p>	
	<p>19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.  20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.  Amen.</p>	<p>50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.  51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.  52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,  53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.</p>	

## The Story Version

### *An Embellished Account of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

There are so many things that could be told – far more than I will attempt to fully share or communicate! Here, I'd like to tell you, in story form about the morning Jesus rose from the dead.

We knew Jesus was stressed. Something was driving Him more strongly. He was always perfectly focused. He always had that perfect ability, and unique mixture of composure in every circumstance we found ourselves in. Some were amazingly difficult situations! But this was different. Something was different. We all sensed it, but none of us were able to handle it.

It started last week after we left Jericho. We traveled to Bethany. Along the way, early in the day, Jesus had healed two blind men. As was typical, many people followed us out of town that morning. The crowds got a bit smaller as the day went on. That evening we arrived at Bethany. We had been there not long ago. Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life after being in the tomb for four days! Over the last three years, Jesus had performed so many amazing miracles, it was impossible to account for all of them. They never became just a common thing to us, but after so many, it sort of became normal that we knew Jesus could and would very likely do something else absolutely amazing.

Jesus had warned us that we were going to Jerusalem and that He would be betrayed and killed. I don't want to say that we didn't believe Him, but I sure can't say that we fully understood. We knew threats were made and that we would be walking right into them. We were all ready to face those threats head on, even to death if necessary. We thought we would fight. How wrong we were! As I ponder it, I am again reminded of what an amazing God He is. All the while perfectly knowing each of us and how we would respond, He tells us the truth that we can't handle. Then He proceeds to prepare us to for things we don't fathom or even imagine are coming.

We arrived at Bethany late in the day on Friday. Saturday, we went to Jerusalem. We would spend the next several days going to Jerusalem and then mostly spending the night back in Bethany. On Tuesday we prepared to have the Passover meal that evening. That's when we could really tell there was something very serious and focused about Jesus' demeanor. By that hour the next day, He would be dead!

How could we miss it? I often ponder that question. How could we miss what was coming? What the scriptures said about the suffering of the Messiah? On and on? Lord help me be humble! Help me never to project my presuppositions onto your plans. Laying down my own pride has been such a struggle at times.

Let's talk about what happened after they murdered Him. That's what makes this all possible. It's also the part when our eyes really began to open and understand. We thought we had experienced being overwhelmed emotionally from the crucifixion that He suffered. But wow, how do you even prepare for what would come early that morning three days later? He had risen from the dead!

A couple of the secretive disciples, Jewish leaders, took Jesus' dead body to a tomb near the place where they crucified Him. It was late that Wednesday. The High Sabbath, first day of Unleavened Bread was to start at sunset. They wanted to be done with the work in time to rest during the Sabbath. They got done, but the work was done hastily. Some of the women, including Mary Magdalene and the other Mary saw where they laid him and the quick work to prepare His body. In their distress and mourning, they immediately knew that they wanted to put more effort into preparing Jesus' body. They planned to do so as soon as they could. However, because of the work to buy and prepare the spices and cloths, and the feast's High Sabbath and then the regular Sabbath, it wouldn't be until Sunday morning that they could go back to the tomb.

The Chief Priests and Pharisees knew that Jesus had spoken of raising from the dead after three days. They were so bent in their own pride, that on the High Sabbath day, they gathered and asked Pilate to guard the tomb. Ultimately, they were allowed to place their own guards. They immediately commanded their guards to go to the tomb and guard it for three days from that time. So, then there would be guards at the tomb until the end of Sunday.

Friday, the ladies went out and bought the spices and gathered the cloths they needed. They spent the day getting everything prepared. Jesus' body would be anointed with the spices and the tears of those ladies. I think it was good for them as they worked, and cried, and processed all that had happened. It truly was a dedicated act of love for our Lord. He had been so wrongfully treated! The ladies would not let that be their last memory of Him. They planned to be at the tomb at first light on Sunday.

The guards were just supposed to keep us from stealing the body and making a claim that Jesus rose. We weren't sure if they would allow the women to come to prepare His body? But the ladies were not going to be convinced to wait. They were going to try first thing after the Sabbath, Sunday morning. I remember hoping that they would be able to and have that time of closure. They've shed so many tears. We all have.

Saturday we all rested on the Sabbath. The spices were ready and packed to carry. The cloths were ready, folded and piled into a bag. Both were sitting by the door. They planned to meet at the tomb at first light. As soon as they woke up Sunday morning they would go to the tomb.

Jesus had spoken of how the one who is forgiven much, loves much. Mary Magdalene was such a shining example of that. She had been so transformed by the love of God that Jesus had shown her. She was so greatly affected by Him. And, now she was so greatly hurt by His death. Before she lay down to sleep that night, she made sure everything was ready. This would be another night of very

little rest. All the pain was really settling in now. The smell of the spices and the thoughts of going to the tomb, His lifeless body, and all that He had done were swirling around the room. She finally closed her eyes rested impossibly.

That morning Mary Magdalene would be the first to stir. I'm not sure what convinced her eyes to open. Perhaps it was that one rooster that always seems to be a bit earlier than the rest. Later some said they had felt a little earthquake. It would not have been the first quake to draw some attention in a few day's time. Maybe that was it? When her eyes opened, she was still anxiously waiting for the morning. It was still so dark, but the moon had moved far enough, and the night sky had now changed. It was nearly time. Some of the other ladies were similarly moved and ready. The sky was still dark when they started toward the tomb.

As they walked, they wondered about the huge stone that sealed the tomb. What about the guards? Would they let them by? Maybe they'd help move the stone? Everyone knew that was a doubtful hope at best, but they continued. Light was starting to come into the sky as they walked out of the city. It was almost sunrise now. As they caught a glimpse of the place where they killed Jesus, the first colors beginning to form in the sky were spectacular. Then as they came around the corner into the garden the very first beams of light came over the horizon and filled the garden area.

The women came to the tomb expecting to finally see the depth of obstacles they would have to contend with. The guards and a large stone were the last two things between them and the Lord's body. Then in full light, much to their surprise, there were no guards as they drew near. The tomb's stone was rolled back and propped wide open! How could it be? Great dread fell on the women. Then an angel sitting on top of the stone called to them, "Do not be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus, but He's not here! He has risen just like He said. Come and look where He was laid". The women were so scared! But there was something so comforting about that angel. So, they peered in and went into the tomb.

Inside the tomb, they found other angels. They were still scared and bowed their heads. The angels again told them, "Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus. But why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen just like He said. Remember how He told you before in Galilee that this was going to happen? Now go and tell His disciples and be sure that Peter hears. Tell them that He is going before you to Galilee!"

In amazement, they came out of the tomb. They were so overwhelmed, really bewildered. They could barely contain themselves. The emotions experienced over the last few days were suddenly exploded into an astonishment like no other. I think they were more scared by the rushing feelings than they were of anything else at that moment. They couldn't figure out how to respond. I don't blame them. How could you be prepared to respond to that? Later, I found out that it was the angel outside the tomb that helped them get moving. He reminded them to go and tell the disciples. Then they tried to compose themselves and focus. Off they ran towards Peter.

By this time there were people in the streets, starting their day. The women were so filled with joy and fear that they trembled and struggled to contain themselves. They didn't say a word to anyone but ran straight to Peter's place. John was there as well. They got there, barely able to breath. Mary Magdalene pounded on the door. Peter opened the door as Mary gasped to catch her breath. John stood behind Peter as she barely squeezed out the words, "They've taken away the Lord, and we don't know where they laid Him".

Peter didn't say a word. As is typical of him, he just responded and took off running. Without delay John was right behind him. As the two ran, the same thoughts that the ladies had began to fill their heads. Peter was strong but John was a little faster than him. John shot ahead and straight down to the tomb. He stopped there at the entrance and gazed inside catching his breath. There were the cloths in a pile and the napkin that covered the Lord's face neatly folded. Peter didn't even slow down as he raced right into the tomb. John followed him in.

Once in the tomb, the reality started to settle in. All the thoughts, all the things the Lord said. How could we miss this? They were all true! John, right then and there, believed it all! Peter was so scared, he was... perhaps for the first time.... hesitant. He had denied the Lord just those few nights earlier. They both came out and started back towards their homes.

Mary Magdalene finally caught up and got back to the tomb again. She just stood there outside and wept for a moment. Then she stooped down and peered inside. Could anything make sense of this for her? There the angels were again. They said to her, "women, why do you weep?" She answered, "because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've taken Him." She turned around and saw another man there. She thought he must be the gardener. He too asked her, "Why are you weeping? Who are looking for?" She answered, "Please if you have taken Him away, tell me where He is, and I will take Him." The man said to her "Mary". Suddenly she realized it was Jesus. All hope of composure was lost. "Teacher!" she gasped as her knees buckled. She just fell to the ground and held his feet and worshipped Him. He reminded her that He must still go to the Father.

Then the other Mary caught up, entered the garden area and came to the tomb. Astounded, she saw Jesus standing there and Mary Magdalene worshipping Him. Mary came and fell to her knees before the Lord. Together they worshipped and would have been happy to stay right there. The fear that they would lose Him again was too difficult to consider. Jesus told them not to fear and to "go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." Reluctantly, the ladies left and went to find Matthew, Mark and the others.

Later I learned that while the ladies were hurriedly back and forth, to and from the tomb, the guards arrived to report to the chief priests. They told them how the earth quaked, and an angel descended and rolled back the stone. The guards said they could hardly move, paralyzed with fear, let alone continue their guard duties. Amazingly, the priests didn't want the attention of dealing with this claim of heavenly hosts descending on the tomb. Their pride had consumed them. How could they contend with such a report? They

decided to conceal the matter. To the guards, a bribe and a guarantee were offered. They were promised that no harm would come on them for failing their duty.

By this time, a couple of the disciples, not of the eleven, were so discouraged that they left Jerusalem during the feast week. They headed down the road towards Emmaus. Soon another man caught up with them and walked for a while. At first, the man seemed to be from somewhere foreign. He seemed totally unaware of all that had happened concerning Jesus. The two were surprised as he began to teach them concerning the suffering of the Messiah. He began with Moses' and went through the prophet's writings. He expounded on all of it showing them things they had not understood before.

It was getting late in the afternoon as they drew near a village that they were going to stay at. The man seemed uninterested in going further with them. However, they very much enjoyed hearing all that he had to say. They asked him to stay with them. He agreed and joined them in town. Once they got settled in a place, they sat to eat. This stranger took the bread, blessed it and broke it. Immediately the two disciples recognized him as Jesus! Before they could bring their shock to control and order their words, He was gone from their sight.

The two men finally brought the words together to share how they knew there was something about the man while He taught them. They were hastened by their mutual astonishment to go straight back to Jerusalem and tell the eleven. They left right away and found the eleven, at least most of them. They reported all that they saw and heard. However, the disciples had already heard all this from the women. They didn't believe the women. Now these two men come and report seeing Jesus. Oh, but the eleven, would not be easily convinced. All that they thought they knew had been destroyed over these last few days. They didn't believe the report of the two disciples either.

As the two disciples finished, Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of the group. They were all greatly afraid and it showed in their trembling hands. Jesus encouraged them, "peace to you" He said. Then, He rebuked their unbelief and asked them why they doubted. He showed them the telling marks of the crucifixion, holes in His wrists and in His side, a deep scar. Jesus then breathed on them and said, "receive the Holy Spirit" and continue the work that I taught you.

While still in unbelief, Jesus asked them for something to eat. He ate the fish and honeycomb there with them. This assured them that it wasn't a spirit or their imagination. But that assurance offered little help in knowing how to respond.

Thomas was not with them. The others told Thomas, and he too would not believe it. He said that he would have to see the marks in His hands and in His side before he would believe any of these reports.

Later, the next week, the eleven went to Galilee as they were told to do. While there, they were together again, this time with Thomas. They were in a locked room when suddenly Jesus appeared to them. This time He focused on Thomas. He showed him His

hands and His side. He said here touch the place where they pierced me. Thomas did not need to touch the wounds. He just trembled as he fell to his knees and proclaimed, “my Lord and my God!”

Soon Jesus would lead us all out onto a hill outside of town. He gave us a final encouragement. He told us to tell everyone about what we had seen. This was new. Jesus had often encouraged people to keep quiet about what they saw. Of course, no one ever did. How could you keep quiet when you had been affected by Jesus? Then He told us to go back to Jerusalem and wait for His Spirit to come. Then He quietly ascended into heaven. Just as quickly as He had found us in the beginning, He had now ascended out of our reach. His Spirit would soon fall upon us in Jerusalem. This was just the beginning of what our Lord was building. He had laid the foundation and would now use us to edify the building upon His work.

There is so much more that could be written. That is for another day. Today, I hope in reading this account that you will be as moved by it as we were that day. Jesus is the Christ. He did rise from the grave. That’s why we will never stop proclaiming His name to the world. This is no lie. Our Lord is alive, and we’ve got work to do. No threat on our lives will slow down this good news! My life is already taken as I’ve laid it down for my Lord. May He alone be glorified in me. I pray that you too will be reconciled to our living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## A Simple Timeline

Time		Event	Persons	Scripture	Note
Thursday (High Sabbath)		Jewish leaders set guards at tomb for three days		Mt. 27:62-66	
Friday		Ladies gather/buy spices and plan to meet Sunday and go to the tomb very early to anoint Jesus' body.		Mr. 16:1, Lu. 23:56	
Saturday (Sabbath)		Rest		Lu. 23:56	
Sunday	Sometime very early morning/mid-night	Angels descend to the tomb. Guards are scared and leave before they're done with guard duty.		Mt. 28:2-4	
	Before sunrise (still dark)	Women meet and start walking towards the tomb.	At least these three: Mary Magdalene, the other Mary (Mother of James), and Salome. Could be more ladies with them.	Jn. 20:1a	
	Almost sunrise	Women question about who will roll the stone		Mr. 16:3	
	At sunrise	Arrive at the tomb, meet angel outside		Mt. 28:1 & 5-6, Mr. 16:1, Lu. 24:1	
	At sunrise	Enter the tomb and encounter two more angels that are perceived as men.		Mr. 16:5-7, Lu. 24:3-8	
	Sunrise	Leave the tomb and reminded by angel outside, then go to John and Peter		Mt. 28:7-8, Mr. 16:8	

Sunday	After sunrise	Arrive to tell John & Peter		Jn. 20:2	
	Early morning	At some point before the Marys go to the tomb, most the women separate to go tell the disciples what is happening.			I think this because there is no record that any other women are at the tomb the second time the Marys are there and see the Lord.
		John & Peter go to tomb and then leave		Jn. 20:3-10	
		Mary Magdalene arrives back at tomb and looks in.		Jn. 20:11	
		Magdalene sees the angels, talks to them, then sees Jesus and interacts with Him		Jn. 20:12-17	
		The other Mary arrives at the tomb site and sees Jesus too			
	Morning	The Marys go tell Matthew and likely others what is happening		Mt. 28:9-10	
		While the Marys go, the guards arrive to report that they left their post because of the angel.		Mt. 28:11-15	
	Throughout the day	The women report to the disciples. Especially the Marys report to the eleven.		Mr. 16:10-11, Lu. 24:9-10, Jn. 20:18	

		Jesus meets two disciples (not of the eleven) on the road to Emmaus		Mr. 16:12, Lu. 24:13-32	
		The two go back to Jerusalem and tell the eleven		Mr. 16:13, Lu. 24:33-35	
	Late in the day	Jesus appears to the eleven (except Thomas) and other disciples		Mr. 16:14, Lu. 24:36-43, Jn. 20:19-23	
		Thomas hears report, does not believe		Jn. 20:24-25	