

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Appears to the Faithful Women

Last time...two angels announced to the faithful women, “He is not here, He is risen.”
We considered the accounts of Matt, Mark, and Luke

This time...The risen Lord appears to the faithful women who were present until the very end
They witnessed His crucifixion, His death, His body taken down from the cross,
His burial

We will start in John’s account

There are 4 Gospels...4 accounts, 4 perspectives, all true

It is very difficult/challenging to interleave all the individual verses from all
4 accounts into one chronological order, one flow populated by the verses from
the 4 Gospels; much finer granularity than putting events in chronological order

The Word of God does not give us all the details in its record
The Word does give us more than enough to believe the testimony of God

Nonetheless, by studying the 4 Gospels concurrently, we do get all the information the
Holy Spirit wants us to have and know from these God-breathed words

We must “think on these things” (Phil 4:8)

John 20

v1 Mary Magdalene...when it was yet dark:

This is what was recorded by John concerning the women going to the tomb of
Jesus early Sunday morning to complete the job of His burial

Last week’s study in Matt 28:1-8, Mark 16:1-8, and Luke 24:1-8

John records that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus “when it was yet
dark.”

Before sunrise

Did Mary Magdalene, in her great distress and in her haste, arrive at the
tomb before the other women?

v2 she ran and came to Peter and the other disciple:

What did Mary Magdalene see when she arrived at the tomb of Jesus?
It was open and empty

What was her response?

To run

- Before the other women even arrived?
- Ahead of the others?

Where did she run?

To Peter and John

What did she say to them?

“They (persons unknown) have taken away the Lord out of the tomb and we (the women) do not know where they have laid Him.”

No mention of the angel’s announcement of “He is not here, He is risen.”

Either: Mary Magdalene came to and went from the tomb separately from the other women

Or: The 2 angels appeared and made their announcement after Mary Magdalene ran away to Peter and John

v3-4 they ran both together...other...came first:

Peter and John hear Mary Magdalene’s report about the missing body of Jesus and they take off running to the tomb.

Peter is an older gentleman, John is a young man

I do not think they were racing/competing

I think the young man is simply a faster runner than the old man

v5 stooping down...saw...went not in:

John gets to the tomb of Jesus first and

- stooped down...the chiseled door is less than his height, he must bow to look in
- *and looking in...*added by the KJV translators, not God-breathed words
- saw the linen clothes...observed lying on the burial slab the fine linen Joseph bought with which he and Nicodemus had wrapped the body of Jesus when they took the body of Jesus down from the cross (he was an eyewitness)
- yet went not in...John did not step into the mourning chamber, he stayed outside the tomb
John is a thoughtful soul, not an impulsive soul

v6-7 Simon Peter...went into:

Peter, on the other hand, is an impulsive soul, not a thoughtful soul
Ready, Fire, Aim!

When Peter gets to the tomb of Jesus, he boldly goes right in
His personality, his boldness, properly directed in about 50 days at the
feast of Pentecost (Lev 23:4-16), is what the Holy Spirit will
use mightily in the early days of the Church

Peter marches into the mourning chamber of the tomb and sees

- on the left burial slab
 - the linen clothes used to wrap the body of Jesus
 - the head bandage (crown of thorns), separately
- no angels

A note about Jewish burials

- folded the arms over the chest
- wrapped the body and burial spices in linen
- placed the body on its back in a tomb...bones later to be gathered and placed in the family “bone box” (“gathered unto his people”)
- body was not completely wrapped ala embalming...face, neck, and upper shoulders were left bare
- the head was wrapped separately

son of the widow of Nain...able to sit up and speak

Peter examined the scene and perceived the wrappings (both)...as they should be

Luke 24:12 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

Stooping down...had to in order to go in
Not the position of a proud man

Left scratching his head...“What has happened????!!”

v8 went in also...saw and believed:

John followed Peter's lead into the mourning chamber of the tomb

John's response is different than Peter's – he believed Jesus is risen from the dead

Heb 11:1

John 2:19-22

John 6:39-40, 47, 51

Matt 16:21-23

Mark 10:32-34

John did not yet understand, but he believed what Jesus had said!

John 11:14-15, 4, 41-44

John 12:23-36

John 14:1-3

v9 they knew not the scripture:

Neither Peter nor John understood at this moment the meaning of Scripture
foretelling the resurrection of the Messiah

Gen 22:1-2, 3-14

Gen 37:3-11, 18, 24, 28

Is 53:9-11, 12

Ps 16:10

Ps 22:1, 6-18, 22-26

Ps 23

Jonah (Matt 12:39-40)

Peter wondered what had happened, John believed...Heb 11:8-ish

Note: the disciples will know the Scriptures when Jesus appears in the midst
after appearing to the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24)

v10-12 But Mary...saw two angels:

Mary Magdalene ran to Peter and John

Peter and John ran to the tomb

Obviously, Mary Magdalene ran back with them

Peter and John entered the tomb, saw the physical evidence of the Resurrection
(with two different reactions) and then left the scene

Mary stayed, weeping, not understanding

She stooped down and looked into the tomb and saw two angels...
that Peter and John did not

In the flow of events of this Resurrection morning,

- Did the other women arrive at the tomb while Mary Magdalene was running from the tomb to Peter and John and then running back to the tomb with Peter and John?
- Did the 2 angels appear to the other women and make their announcement during Mary Magdalene's absence from the tomb?
- Did the angels dis-appear after their announcement and the flight of the other women from the tomb and before John's, Peter's, and Mary Magdalene's arrival at the tomb?
- Did the 2 angels re-appear after Peter and John left the scene, appearing to Mary Magdalene?

Nonetheless, Mary Magdalene is again alone at the tomb of Jesus
She looks in the tomb thru her tears and sees something absolutely profound,
even though she does not know what she is seeing

One angel sitting at the head of the left burial slab where the bloody and
wrapped body of Jesus was laid

One angel sitting at the feet of the left burial slab where the bloody and
wrapped body of Jesus was laid

Mary Magdalene alone is the eyewitness of the very fulfillment of a profound
shadow of Jesus Christ

Ex 25:8-22

Ark: wood overlaid with gold...humanity AND Deity

1. Tables of the Law...Rom 10:4

2. Aaron's rod...John 11:25-26

3. Pot of manna...John 6:35

Mercy Seat: solid gold covering (Deity) upon which the blood of
atonement (Lev 16:11-16) will be poured

Angels at both ends

Fulfilled on Resurrection Sunday morning

John 5:39

v13 they have taken away my Lord:

How could Mary Magdalene respond as she did to the angels if she had heard
"He is not here, He is risen"?

There is something about the announcement of the angels to the women that is a
mystery...

v14 saw Jesus standing and knew not it was Jesus:
The 2 angels do not respond to Mary Magdalene's distress nor did they announce
Jesus' resurrection

She turned around and saw...Jesus standing!

She did NOT see the body of Jesus lying in the tomb,
she saw Jesus STANDING outside the tomb; dead men don't stand

The risen Lord has appeared to Mary Magdalene
But...she does not recognize Him

Why not?

He must look different!

What kind of a body does Jesus now have?!

v15 Jesus said...supposing Him to be the gardener...I will take Him away:

Jesus speaks to Mary

Dead men do not speak!

Jesus is not dead, He is alive, standing before and speaking to
Mary Magdalene

He asks her the very same question the 2 angels did

Ps 112:4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: *he is*
gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

She thinks He is the gardener...

Name a gardener in Scripture

Adam

Now, a different garden and the Kinsman-Redeemer of Adam

Mary knows the body of her Lord is not in the tomb, she presumes this gardener
may have moved it

So, if He has, she wants to know where it is so she can carry it away

What?!

Where?!

How?!

Clearly, she has not heard the announcement of the angels,
"He is not here, He is risen."

v16 Jesus said...Mary:

Now Jesus addresses Mary Magdalene by name

She did not recognize His face but now she recognizes...His voice

John 10:3-4, 10b-11, 14, 27-28

v17 Touch Me not...not yet ascended...I ascend:
Why did Jesus say, “Don’t cling to Me.”?
Because Mary was or was about to do just that – cling to Jesus...
with a “I lost You once but I won’t lose You again so I’m never
letting go” grasp

Jesus says He is returning to Heaven and He sends Mary Magdalene to
“My brethren” (Matt 12:47-50) to tell them that.

What does He mean by “My Father and your Father, My God and your God”?
Reconciliation between man and God is now accomplished
God’s Plan of Redemption is...finished (John 19:30)
The way Home for man is in place (John 14:6)
Children obey (love and believe) their Father (John 8:39, 42, 47)

v18 told the disciples...seen the Lord...He had spoken:
Mary Magdalene obeys the Lord
She bears witness to the 11 and other assembled disciples that
1. She has with her own eyes seen the risen Lord
2. The words He spoke to her

Mark 16

v9-11 He appeared first to Mary Magdalene...told them...believed not:
Jesus appeared “first” to Mary Magdalene
In this may be the key to the “mystery”

first: “in time or importance”, “before or chiefly”

Did Jesus first in time appear to Mary Magdalene, before He appeared to the other
women?
Maybe, perhaps not

Did Jesus first in importance appear to Mary Magdalene, chiefly to her vs the
other women?
Absolutely

Dispatched to His brethren by Jesus, she goes to the 11, as they are still mourning
and weeping, and reports that Jesus is alive and she had personally seen
Him
The 11 (except John perhaps)...did not believe her

Matt 28

v9 Jesus met them...worshipped Him:

Perhaps...maybe in the meantime...after Mary ran to Peter and John

“they” are the (other) faithful women who

- saw the two angels
- heard their announcement regarding Jesus being risen
- are doing what the angels told them to do – go tell the disciples

Jesus appears to the faithful women – their faithfulness to Him is rewarded...
to see the risen Lord before the men do

He greets them with, “All hail.”

“Be of good cheer”...as in John 16:33 on the “other side” of the cross and
the tomb

No record of them not recognizing Him but they do “seize” Him like they are
never going to let go

And the women worshipped/revered/adored/kissed (Ps 2:12a) Him

v10 Be not afraid...Galilee...see Me:

Then Jesus repeats the instructions given to the women by the 2 angels after that
had announced that Jesus was risen:

Tell My disciples to go to Galilee
There they will see Me

btw...why Galilee?

John 1:11-13

John 4:43-45

John 7:1, 50-52a

He was given no honor in Jerusalem, only violent contention and unbelief
The risen Lord will go to those who receive/believe
Jesus does not stay where He is not welcome

Luke 24

v9-11 idle tales...believed them not:

The faithful women returned from the tomb to tell the disciples
(11 + others assembled) all these things

- what the angels said
- they saw the risen Lord and what He said

And the women who saw angels and the risen Lord are listed...even though it
seems they were not all together throughout this morning

Their collective witness is summed up in Luke's account

Their witness is given to...the apostles, the eleven

But...the apostles/the eleven did not believe their witness

Application

1. Jesus met them (Matt 28:9)

The women were seeking the body of Jesus

The angels announced,

“He is not here, He is risen.”

“Go tell His disciples (who fled from Him while you stayed with Him)

He is risen from the dead.”

“He goes before you into Galilee, there you will see Him.”

As they went to tell the disciples/the eleven/the apostles, Jesus met them

They were seeking the body of Jesus, Jesus was seeking them

He met them

He greeted them

Why?

John 15:11

John 16:20-22

John 17:13

The women saw Him, heard Him, touched Him

Jesus met me

I was not seeking Him Personally, relationally...He was a dead man on a cross

An angel/messenger (Monica) witnessed to me of Him

I went on, not quite sure what to think

Jesus met me, He was seeking me

Jesus met you
or
Jesus is seeking you

2. John believed (John 20:8)

John did not see an angel
John did not hear the testimony/announcement of an angel
John did not see or hear or touch the risen Lord

John saw the evidence
John believed what Jesus had said

Hear the testimony of “angels”/messengers
See the evidence
Believe what Jesus has said

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life