

Harmony Of The Women At The Tomb (And Of Jesus' Appearances)

by Tim Deaton, edited 19 Apr 2014 - Scripture from English Standard Version

MATTHEW

- 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
- 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- 28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
- 28:4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.
- 28:5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.
- 28:6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.
- 28:7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."
- 28:8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
- 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.
- 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

MARK

- 16:1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.
- 16:2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.
- 16:3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"
- 16:4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.
- 16:5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.
- 16:6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.
- 16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."
- 16:8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.
- 16:9 [[Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.
- 16:10 She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept.]]

[[verses 9-20 appear to have been added by a different hand sometime between 90-150 AD], using the other three gospels as sources - apparently because Mark's original ending had been lost. They are omitted from some early manuscripts and footnoted by others.]]

LUKE

- 23:55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid.
- 23:56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.
- 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.
- 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,
- 24:3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
- 24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.
- 24:5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"
- 24:6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,
- 24:7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."
- 24:8 And they remembered his words,
- 24:9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.
- 24:10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,
- 24:11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.
- 24:12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

JOHN

- 20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.
- 20:2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."
- 20:3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.
- 20:4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
- 20:5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.
- 20:6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there,
- 20:7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.
- 20:8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;
- 20:9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.
- 20:10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.
- 20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb.
- 20:12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.
- 20:13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."
- 20:14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.
- 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."
- 20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).
- 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"
- 20:18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

Harmony

Which women went?

- Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, Salome (Mk 16:1);
- Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Mt 28:1);
- Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, Joanna, others (Lk 24:10)
- Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:1)

Angels

How Many?

- 1 angel appeared (Mt 28:2-5), Mk 16:5)
- 2 angels (Lk 24:4)
- 2 angels (Jn 20:12)

Where?

- Sat on the moved stone (Mt 28:2)
- Inside the tomb (Mk 16:5, Lk 24:4, Jn 20:12)

What did the women do?

- went to disciples w/fear, joy (Mt 28:8)
- afraid, spoke to no one (Mk 16:8); but Mary Magdalene told the disciples (Mk 16:10)
- told disciples (Lk 24:9)
- told Peter, John (Jn 20:2)

Who else went to the tomb?

- Peter (Lk 24:12)
- Peter & John (Jn 20:3-6)
- no mention (Mt, Mk)

Who did Jesus appear to?

- The women leaving the tomb (Mt 28:9)
- Mary Magdalene - location not mentioned (Mk 16:9)
- Mary Magdalene - at the tomb (Jn 20:14-17)
- no mention (Lk)

Harmonized

The stone was rolled away

- The soldiers saw the angel move and sit on the stone, and collapsed in fear
- The angel disappeared, the soldiers then came to and fled to the chief priests (Mt 28:11)
- The chief priests bribed them to lie (Mt 28:11-15),
- but someone told what really happened (Mt 28:2-4)

Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, Salome, Joanna, & perhaps others went to tomb

- Mary Magdalene may have arrived first, alone, and left before the other women arrived

Mary Magdalene left to tell Peter & John

- (The disciples were likely scattered, sleeping in different houses in small groups)

The others examined tomb, some went inside

Those inside saw 2 angels, those outside only saw the one who spoke

The women went to tell other disciples (probably in multiple locations)

- Mary mother of James & Joanna told some, were not believed (Mt 28:8, Lk 24:10)

- Salome (Mk 16:1), afraid, may have told no one

- may have tried to find Peter (singled out in Mk 16:7), failed, become fearful, & hid

Peter & John ran to the tomb, followed at a walk by Mary Magdalene

Peter & John went inside, saw evidence, and left

- John, who believed (Jn 20:8), probably went to find the other disciples

- Peter, likely still guilt-ridden, probably went off by himself, where Jesus appeared to him (Lk 24:34)

Mary Magdalene did not get back to the tomb til after Peter & John left

- weeping, she looked into the tomb and saw the two angels (Jn 20:11-13)

- They spoke to her, but in her grief she didn't realize they were angels

- She assumed body had been taken and turned away from the tomb

- Jesus appeared to her then, while she was still crying (Mk 16:9, Jn 20:14-17)

Mary Magdalene told another group of disciples (Lk 24:10, Jn 20:18)

None of the women were believed (Mk 16:11, Lk 24:11)

Jesus' appearances that day

1. To Mary Magdalene (Mk 16:9, Jn 20:14-17)
2. To Peter, who told disciples (Lk 24:34, 1Cor 15:5)
3. Jesus appeared to Cleopas & friend on Emmaus Road, who told disciples (Mk 16:12, Lk 24:13-33)
4. Jesus appeared to all (Lk 24:36-43, Jn 20:19-23), but Thomas was absent (Jn 20:24-29)

Afterward

Jesus appeared to

- all with Thomas present (Mk 16:14, Jn 20:24-29, 1Cor 15:5)
- Peter, Thomas, & 5 others at the Sea of Galilee (Jn 21:1-24)
- the 11 on a Galilee mountain (Mt 28:16-20, Mk 16:15-18)
- more than 500 at one time (1Cor 15:6)
- his brother James (1Cor 15:7)
- the apostles again (1Cor 15:7) @ Bethany (Lk 24:50-51) @ Mount of Olives (Acts 1:6-12)
- Bethany was at the Mount of Olives (Mk 11:1, Lk 19:29)
- Paul (years later) (Acts 9:17, 1Cor 15:8, Gal 1:12)