

**June 26–July 2. Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20–21: “He Is Risen”**

The Empty Tomb

Christ is removed from the cross, wrapped in linen cloth, placed in the tomb provided by Joseph of Arimathea, and the stone is rolled in front of the entrance.

The women prepare spices and ointments for burial, but must wait until after the Sabbath to administer.

In the morning after the Sabbath the women return to the tomb to finish the preparations for burial.

Mark 16:1-4

[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.

Here Mark mentions 3 women

From information from all four gospels, how many women went to help with the burial preparations?

Luke

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

From Luke – at least 4, probably more (other women - plural)

Matthew

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.

Mark

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.

John

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.

The women that are named are Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James (the other Mary?), Joanna, and Salome

Mary Magdalene does not go inside the tomb but returns immediately to tell Peter and John that Christ's body is missing

The rest of the women witness the empty tomb and angels who tell them that Jesus has risen

Luke 24:3-7

[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.

Aside from stating that Jesus had risen, what do the angles teach the women?

Jesus had told them this was going to happen:

(remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee)

Gordon B. Hinckley

"Here was the greatest miracle of human history. Earlier he had told them, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' But they had not understood. Now they knew. He had died in misery and pain and loneliness. Now, on the third day, he arose in power and beauty and life, 'the firstfruits of them that slept,'

"On Calvary He was the dying Jesus. From the tomb He emerged the Living Christ. The empty tomb now became the testimony of His divinity, the assurance of eternal life, the answer to Job's unanswered question: 'If a man die, shall he live again?'" ("The Symbol of Our Faith", Ensign, April 2005)

Jesus appears to the other women while they are returning from the tomb to give the message to the apostles

Matt 28:7-10

[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.

[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.

Keep in mind that it states the women, “held him by the feet” when we read more about Mary Magdalene’s experience

Let’s read how the apostles reacted to this message from these chosen women

Luke 24:9-11

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.

Why do you think the apostles didn’t accept the testimony of the women?

James E. Faust

“Perhaps the Apostles should not be unduly criticized for not believing that Jesus, having been crucified and buried in a tomb, had come back to earth as a glorified being. In all human experience, this had never happened before. It was completely unprecedented... Jesus... became a resurrected being. He would never die again. So it was that to the Apostles the story of Mary Magdalene and the other women who witnessed the Resurrection ‘seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.’” (CR, Oct. 1988)

Mary Magdalene returns to the tomb with Peter and John. Peter and John go inside and witness the empty tomb

John 20:1-10

[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.

[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,

[7] And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

[8] Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

[9] For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

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

What reaction did John have when he saw the burial linen?

(and he saw, and believed)

For as of yet, as stated in verse 9, they still didn't fully comprehend that Jesus had told them all along that He would be resurrected

Bruce R. McConkie

“Together [Peter and John] view the grave-clothes-linen strips that have not been unwrapped, but through which a resurrected body has passed. And then, upon John... the reality dawns first. It is true! They had not known before; now they do. It is the third day! Christ is risen! ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’ (1 Cor 15:54).” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:842)

Mary speaks to angles in the empty tomb and to the resurrected Jesus

John 20:11-18

[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.

Why do you think Jesus chose Mary Magdalen and the other women to be the first witness and testifiers of His resurrection?

Melvin Hammond

“In a voice tintured with pure love and the sweetest tenderness, he simply uttered one word, ‘Mary.’ There was no mistaking the voice; it was Jesus

Christ. And thrilled beyond any comprehension, the dear woman could only say, 'Rabboni,' which means Master.

"There He stood—alive! Raised from the dead! Never to die again! His perfect body forever united with the spirit. The eternal Christ!

"To the credit of gentle, loving women everywhere, our Redeemer chose as the first mortal witness of His resurrection from the dead a woman, Mary Magdalene." (CR, April 1990)

As stated earlier, the other women "held him by the feet."  
Why do you think Mary Magdalene was admonished not to touch Jesus?

Bruce R. McConkie

"The King James Version quotes Jesus as saying 'Touch me not.' The Joseph Smith Translation reads 'Hold me not.' Various translations from the Greek render the passage as 'Do not cling to me.'... There is valid reason for supposing that the thought conveyed to Mary by the Risen Lord was to this effect: 'You cannot hold me here, for I am going to ascend to my Father.'" (The Mortal Messiah, 4:264)

### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Jesus accompanies Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus  
The other disciple is believed to be Luke since this account only appears in his gospel

Luke 24:13-24

[13] And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

[14] And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

[15] And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

[16] But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

[17] And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

[18] And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass therein these days?

[19] And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

[20] And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

[21] But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

[22] Yea, 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.

What were the disciples discussing?

(Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people)

What were they confused about?

(our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death... But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel  
to day is the third day since these things were done  
women also of our company made us astonished)

Luke 24:25-32

[25] Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

[26] Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

[27] And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

[28] And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

[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 tarry with them.

[30] And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

[31] And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

[32] And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

What did Jesus teach these two disciples?

(Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory  
he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself)  
(Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and  
while he opened to us the scriptures)

Loren C. Dunn

“Two of the disciples were walking along the road to a village called

Emmaus. The Savior himself came and walked and talked with them, but they did ‘not know him’ until right at the very end when their eyes were opened and they knew him. Verse 32 says: ‘And they said one to another, did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?’

“With all the logic and outward evidences of the truthfulness of the gospel, it still comes down to the witness of the Spirit.

“‘Did not our heart burn within us?’ is as applicable today to a person seeking the gospel of Jesus Christ as it was during the time of Christ.” (CR, April 1977)

### Jesus Appears to Ten Apostles Gathered in Galilee

Luke 24:36-48

- [36] And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.
- [37] But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.
- [38] And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?
- [39] Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.
- [40] And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.
- [41] And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?
- [42] And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.
- [43] And he took it, and did eat before them.
- [44] And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.
- [45] Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,
- [46] And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:
- [47] And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- [48] And ye are witnesses of these things.

What did Jesus teach His apostles?

As with all the earlier witnesses, He taught the scriptures and explained that they had been fulfilled:

(Then opened he their understanding, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day)

LeGrand Richards

“[Jesus] realized that they did not comprehend what he had been trying to teach them, so he... commencing with Moses and the prophets, he showed them how that in all things the prophets had testified of him. There isn't time to consider those promises and prophecies this afternoon, but they prophesied even of the casting of lots for his clothing at the time of his crucifixion.

“Peter then tells us that he opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.” (CR, April 1971)

What were the apostles commanded to do?

(repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations  
(And ye are witnesses of these things)

Bruce R. McConkie

"All this was done to show that Jesus had come forth from the tomb with a tangible body. It was the Lord's way of giving to Peter and his associates a witness of the truth and divinity of his divine Sonship. If he rose from the dead, he was the Son of God; if he was the Son of God, then the gospel of salvation they were proclaiming was true; and so their obligation was to establish in the minds of men that Jesus rose from the dead. They then had to bear a personal witness." ("Upon Judea's Plains," Ensign, July 1973)

The 10 apostles told Thomas that they had seen the resurrected Jesus.  
Thomas states that he won't believe unless he sees for himself  
8 days after His first appearance to the apostles He appears again.  
This time Thomas is present

John 20:26-29

[26] And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

[27] Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

[28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

[29] Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Why do you think that we often single out Thomas as the one who doubted?

By now I'm thinking that Thomas got a bad rap because I'm starting to see a trend. The apostles and followers had no Idea that Jesus would be resurrected. None of them believed the women when they testified that they had seen Jesus.



They all had to see Jesus for themselves and be reminded of the scriptures that told of His resurrection.

James E. Faust

“Said President David O. McKay of this experience: ‘... What was it that suddenly changed these disciples to confident, fearless, heroic preachers of the gospel of Jesus Christ? It was the revelation that Christ had risen from the grave.’...”

“Like the Apostles of old, this knowledge and belief should transform all of us to be confident, settled, unafraid, and at peace in our lives as followers of the divine Christ. It should help us carry all burdens, bear any sorrows, and also fully savor all joys and happiness that can be found in this life.” (CR, Oct. 1988)

Peter, James, John, Thomas, Nathanael, and 2 disciples decide to go fishing  
Jesus appears on the shore of Galilee and asks, “Children, have ye any meat?”  
They don’t recognize Him. They replied, “no”.  
Jesus tells them to cast their nets on the other side of the ship.  
“They were not able to draw [the net] for the multitude of fishes”  
John was first to recognize Him. Peter swam to shore to greet Him.

John 21:14-17

[14] This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

[15] So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

[16] He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

[17] He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

What lesson did Jesus teach Peter and the other apostles to prepare them for their ministry?

(Feed my sheep)

Jeffrey R. Holland

"Jesus responded,... perhaps saying something like: 'Then Peter, why are you here?... Isn't it obvious now that if I want fish, I can get fish? What I need, Peter, are disciples—and I need them forever. I need someone to feed

my sheep and save my lambs. I need someone to preach my gospel and defend my faith. I need someone who loves me, truly, truly loves me, and loves what our Father in Heaven has commissioned me to do.... So, Peter, I am asking you to leave all this and to go teach and testify, labor and serve loyally until the day in which they will do to you exactly what they did to me.” (CR, Oct. 2012)

Jesus’ last appearance recored in the Gospels is to a number of disciples on a Mountain in Galilee

Elder McConkie states that there were probably many more present at this last appearance than just the apostles

Bruce R. McConkie

"Of all the recorded appearances of the risen Christ to his disciples in Palestine, this one is paramount; and yet of it the present Bible preserves only a most fragmentary account.... It is likely the occasion of which, as Paul wrote later, 'he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once' (1 Cor. 15:6)." (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:866)

Matt 28:16-20

[16] Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

[17] And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

[18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

[19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

[20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

What was Jesus’ final message to His apostles and disciples?

(verse 19 & 20)

Howard W. Hunter

“The emphasis is on the words teach and baptize. Following this scriptural admonition, missionaries of the Church, both young and old, are in the world teaching the principle of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the other principles of the gospel to all who will hear. This is according to the pattern established by the Master himself... They went forth and bore witness of his divinity in those days, over 1,900 years ago, and devoted ambassadors of today bear the same witness as they go into the world.” (CR, April 1975)