

(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. 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.”

(3) So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going to the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

(8) Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

(11) But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 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.”

(14) Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know it was Jesus. 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.”

(16) Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 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.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord” --- and that He had said these things to her.

Think on these things:

- 1) Who found the stone rolled away from the entry of the tomb? Does it say if s/he entered or looked into the tomb? How large of a stone door are we talking about (Mark 16:4)?

Mary Magdalene. She does not enter or look inside the tomb at this time. The stone was ‘very large.’

- 2) Read Matthew 27:62-28:4, 11-14. From this account of that Sunday morning, how did the Pharisees and priests seek to PREVENT any possible claim that Jesus would rise from the dead? Who rolled away the sealed stone? What made-up story were the guards to tell the people if questioned about what happened? Who paid their bribe and promised protection?

Prevention? **They got permission to roll the stone in place, seal it, and post a guard. Pilate did not do this, but he allowed the Pharisees to do it (with his Roman seal).**

Who rolled the stone away? **Mt. 28:2 says an ‘angel of the Lord’ rolled back the stone, and that there was an earthquake.**

Made-up story? **Tell inquirers that you 'fell asleep' during the watch and Jesus' disciples came at that time and stole His body. (By Roman law, such dereliction of duty was punishable by death.)**

Who paid their bribe and promised protection? **The Jewish Pharisees and priests.**

- 3) Of the two disciples who ran to the tomb, who arrived first? Who entered first? Which disciple first believed in the resurrection of Jesus?

Who's first? **John (the disciple whom Jesus loved)** Who entered first? **Peter**

First to believe a resurrection had occurred? **John put 2+2 together and believed.**

- 4) Some believe that the burial cloth of Jesus has "survived" until this very day. Do you know the modern name of this piece of linen? What is unique about it?

The cloth is known as the Shroud of Turin. It has a 'negative' image of a crucified man between 5'7" and 6'2", believed to be Jesus by many. Recent testing produced a 3D image.

- 5) In v.11, Mary Magdalene looks into the tomb. What did she see that John & Peter did not see? Then stepping back from the opening, whom did she bump into thinking he was the gardener? How did she figure out who it really was?

What she saw? **She saw 2 angels sitting where Jesus' body had been lain, one at the head, the other at the feet.**

Who was it? **She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she thought He was the gardener.**

How did she figure it out? **Jesus called her by her name.**

- 6) When Mary fell down in worship at Jesus' feet, why does He tell her not to touch Him yet?

He said it was because He had not yet ascended to My/your Father, My/your God (v.17).

- 7) In response to Jesus' guidance, Mary "flees" from the tomb in astonishment and great fear, refusing to speak to anyone as she goes to the disciples' gathering place (Mark 16:8). She then obeys Jesus by telling the disciples what she had seen and giving them Jesus' message. How did they respond (Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:10-11)? How did Jesus respond to them (Mark 16:14)?

Disciples' response? **The disciples dismissed Mary's testimony as an 'idle tale'.**

Jesus' response? **Jesus rebuked His disciples for their unbelief and hardness of heart!**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: