

Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #8: Mary returns to the disciples and gives them Jesus' message, John 20:18; Mark 16:9-11.

Review of the resurrection narrative up to this point (I have narrowed down the *approximate* hour of the events; MM is Mary Magdalene):

- Event #1: Saturday, 5:45 p.m., April 4, 33: Two Marys go to “look” at tomb, Matt. 28:1.
- Event #2: Sunday, 3:00 a.m., April 5, 33: Earthquake and angel from heaven, Matt. 28:2-4.
- Event #3: Sunday, 4:00 a.m., MM visits the tomb before daybreak, Jn. 20:1.
- Event #4: Sunday, 4:15 a.m., MM reports empty tomb to John & Peter, Jn. 20:2.
- Event #5: Sunday, 4:30 a.m., Peter and John run to the tomb, Jn. 20:3-9.
- Event #6: Sunday, 4:40 a.m., MM returns to tomb & sees 2 angels, Jn. 20:10-13:
- Event #7: Sunday, 4:50 a.m., MM sees the Risen Lord, Jn. 20:14-17:
- Event #8: Sunday, 5:00 a.m. (daybreak), MM returns to disciples, John 20:18; Mk. 16:9-11.

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and *that* He had said these things to her.

Mark 16:9 *Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.* ¹⁰ She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ And when they heard that He was alive, and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

When Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene in event seven, He instructed her to go to His brothers and tell them, “I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.” Event eight is her going to the abode of the male disciples and telling them the great news that Jesus was alive. She tells them that she had seen Him with her own eyes, but they did not believe her. *What a blow it must have been for Mary when the men rejected her testimony and the message He entrusted to her.* While the people of Jerusalem were celebrating the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples were weeping—but not for long! To begin with, they were totally indisposed to believing in the resurrection. A resurrection, of course, is no ordinary event! Nothing but a literal resurrection of Jesus Christ could cause them to believe; hearsay was not going to get the job done.

Next, she will meet up with the women and go to the tomb with them, arriving just after the sun had risen. Note that Mark 16:9 (above) agrees with John in that Mary was the first to see Jesus. She saw him earlier (event #7) before daybreak (“while it was still dark,” John 20:1). It is important to remember that even though it was before daybreak (“dark”) throughout the events

#3-#7, from 4:00-4:50 a.m., it was just past the middle of the month of Nisan and so she would have had the benefit of the light of a nearly full, waning moon.

In Jesus,

Pastor Don