

Resurrection Morning in Sequence
(New Living Translation)

Times and detail information are underlined, and people are listed in bold. Commentary is listed in brackets or between the scripture.

Mark 16:1-2 Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, [after 6:00pm] **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome** [mother of James and John] went out and purchased [additional] burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, **they** went to the tomb.

(Other Gospel beginnings:)

Matthew 28:1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning; **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary** went out to visit the tomb.

Luke 24:1 But very early on Sunday morning **the women** went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared [on Friday night – see Luke 23:56]
[Luke tells us in 24:10 who all the women involved were: It was **Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women.**]

(In each of these cases, the Greek words for “early morning” or “very early” or “dawn” indicate that it was not fully daylight yet. I imagine the women waited only until they could see enough to make the trip. It was, remember, only 2 days past the full moon, so the moonlight was very helpful in lighting the way as well.)

- Before any of the women arrive at the tomb.

Matthew 28:2-4 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For/because **an angel of the Lord** came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. **The guards** shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

- Mary Magdalene [being much younger than Mary and Salome] arrives first.

John 20:1-2 Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, **Mary Magdalene** came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found **Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved**. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put Him!”

(Mary apparently does not actually look inside.)

- Peter and John arrive before the other women.

(They either outrun Mary Magdalene, or perhaps they tell her to stay there for her safety while they go and check it out. After a while however, she goes back anyway.)

John 20:3-10 **Peter and the other disciple** started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then **Simon Peter** arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they [Peter and John] went home.

➤ The other women arrive.

(The other women are quite a bit older than Mary Magdalene [Salome and the other Mary, remember, are mothers of some of the disciples] they are older, slower, and/or carrying the spices.)

Mark 16:3-4 On the way **they** were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

Luke 24:2-3 **They** found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Mark 16:5 When they entered the tomb, they saw **a young man** clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side.

(One angel clothed in a white robe)

Matthew 28:5-7 Then **the angel** spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen. Come, see where His body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and He is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there. Remember what I have told you."

Mark 16:5-7 The women were shocked, but **the angel** said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His body. Now go and tell His disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you before He died."

(Apparently the women didn't move. Then...)

Luke 24:4-8 As they stood there puzzled, **two men suddenly appeared** to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what He told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that He would rise again on the third day.” Then they remembered that He had said this.

➤ Finally...

Mark 16:8a **The women** fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened. (And we might add, “at first”.)

Matthew 28:8 **The women** ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message.

Luke 24:9 So **they** rushed back from the tomb to tell His eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.

➤ As the women are on the way back to the disciples, Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb and everyone else has left.

John 20:11-17 **Mary** was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in.

She saw **two white-robed angels**, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.

“Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her. “Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put Him.”

(Mary is too grief stricken to even be afraid of the angels!)

She turned to leave and saw **Someone** standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize Him.

“Dear woman, why are you crying?”

(Same question, same “tense” same tone of voice.)

Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought He was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if You have taken Him away, tell me where You have put Him, and I will go and get Him.”

“Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to Him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which [John explains to his Greek readers] is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

“Don’t cling to Me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go **find My brothers** and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’”

➤ As the women are on the way back, to wherever the other disciples are staying, Jesus then appears to them, too.

Matthew 28:9-10 And as **they** went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And **they** ran to Him, grasped His feet, and worshiped Him.
Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell **My brothers** to leave for Galilee, and they will see Me there.”

(It is thought by some that Jesus is speaking here of His earthly brothers as they are not with the disciples, since they did not believe, but others believe that Jesus is now calling His disciples “brothers”. He has called them “friends”, but now they are “brothers.”)

Mark 16:8b Then **they** briefly reported all this to Peter and his companions.

(And then Mary Magdalene arrives)

John 20:18 **Mary Magdalene** found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them His message.

(Luke then gives a summary of the event)

Luke 24:10-12 It was **Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women** who told the apostles what had happened.
But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it.
However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb [he went again, but this time he went alone] to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened. (This time Peter didn’t go back inside.)

Of course, there is much more to the resurrection story. Jesus appears to two men later that day as they are on the road to Emmaus. These two men turn and go back to the disciples in Jerusalem and Jesus then appears again to these two and 10 of the disciples that evening. (Remember, Thomas isn’t there.) And then Jesus appears to the disciples again the next Sunday, and this time Thomas is with them.

The critic will say, “Jesus told them to go to Galilee that He would appear to them there.” Jesus *does* appear to His disciples in Galilee, at a later time. No where does He say that He would not appear to them on Resurrection Day at someplace *other* than Galilee. The disciples (other than John) did not understand (or believe) that Jesus had really risen from the dead, necessitating an appearance in Jerusalem.