

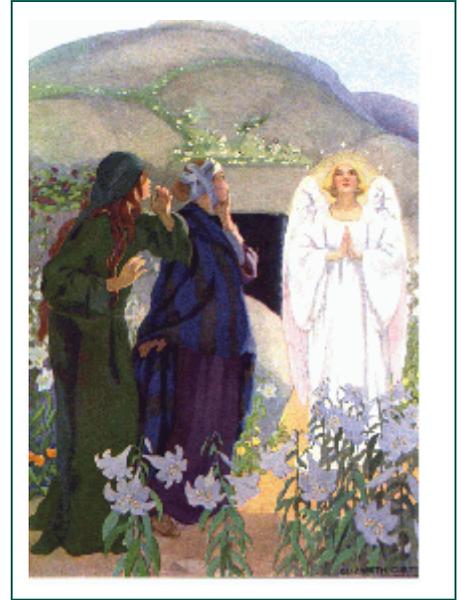
The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

Television and movies have created images that equal our imaginations. Of course, movies make anything *look* real and they dream up explanations for what seems impossible. But the Bible states that a real person saw Jesus, someone that was declared dead and buried.

Can you imagine seeing someone alive on the street, whose body you saw in a casket at a funeral not three days before?

What would be the first thing you would say to him or her?



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, bless our study of Your Word with the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Please guide and direct us in the study of Your saving truths in this story. We thank You for the assurance that Your Word will never return to You void, but always accomplish Your good will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The First Appearance of Our Living Lord after His Death

Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And now, as the first day of the week began to dawn, while it was still dark, they came to see the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and

rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door to the tomb for us?" But when



they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, for it was very large.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb, she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

The other women entered the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, one young man clothed in a long white robe, sitting on the right side. And the women were alarmed and afraid and bowed their faces to the earth.

And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid or alarmed; for I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen, as He said. Behold, here is the place where they laid Him. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

And they remembered His words.

And he said to them, "But go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead: and indeed, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Behold, I have told you."

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb with fear and great joy, for they trembled and were amazed; and they said

nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. And they ran to report it to His disciples.

Peter therefore arose and went out, and the other disciple, and they ran to the tomb. So they both ran together; and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first; and he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and the handkerchief, that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes, and Peter marveled to himself at what had happened.

Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping; and, as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Now when she had said this, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you

weeping? Whom are you seeking?

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni," which is to say, Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me; for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept, that she had seen the Lord, and He had spoken these things to her. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

And as the other women went to tell the disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice." So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My

brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

And they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Now while these women were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and counseled together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Recalling Details

1. What three women went to anoint Jesus?
2. Who rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb?
3. To whom did Mary run back and tell the news?
4. Who did the other women see in the tomb?
5. What did the angel say to the women?
6. what did Peter and John find in the tomb?
7. Who was the first person to see Jesus alive?
8. Why didn't the disciples believe the women?
9. What did the guards report to the chief priests?
10. What was given to the guards and what were they told to say?

Outer Aim - Jesus, who died on Friday, appeared alive on Sunday as He had promised.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus forbid Mary to cling to Him, while He encouraged the other women to touch Him?
2. Faith accepts what cannot be proven, while unbelief rejects, at times, even that which can be proven. How was this true of the chief priests?
3. Explain why Jesus had to rise again in order to redeem the world.
4. What will our bodies be like when Jesus takes us to heaven on the last day? How will they be different from what they are like now?

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

John 11:25-26 " Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

Inner Aim - To recognize God's hand in our lives: Jesus, who died to save us, arose from death as our living Savior.

Hymn

Hymn #211 vs. 4. The hymn writer mentions the power of death being broke in twain. To what is this also a reference?

Prayer

Lord, give me ears to hear Your Word and a heart that believes Your Word. You died to save me, You live to lead me. Teach me to follow You. Amen.