



Beyond Reasonable Doubt: The Irrefutable Evidence of the Risen Christ Supplemental Handout



This document is meant to accompany the lesson guide: **Beyond Reasonable Doubt: The Irrefutable Evidence of the Risen Christ.**

In this handout you will find the events of the first Resurrection Sunday broken into eight events. The events could be broken up a number of different ways. I simply found places in the narrative that were easy points to break apart. So, to some degree the number and the breaking up of events is slightly arbitrary.

I then pulled together all the gospel writers who wrote about each event into a single **synthesized narrative**. This isn't a new translation; it is the ESV text from all four gospel writers, woven together into a single story, much like a detective might merge four different witness statements. To help you track the sources, I have labeled and color-coded the text: ^{Mt} and **brown** is Matthew, ^{Mr} and **blue** is Mark, ^{Lu} and **green** is Luke, ^{Jo} and **purple** is John, **red** is text brought forward from prior verses, **red & underlined** are my own additions to help the narrative flow.

The goal is to aid us in getting a clear, unified, and chronological picture of first Resurrection Sunday. The Sunday School lesson had second goal and that is looking critically at the evidence for the Resurrection.

With all of this in mind, let's dive into the first event of Resurrection Sunday: **The arrival of the women at the tomb at daybreak.**

1. The Arrival of the Women at the Tomb at Daybreak

(Mat 28:1-6, Mar 16:1-6, Luk 24:1-8, Joh 20:1-2a)

^{Mr} When the Sabbath was past, (at **Sunset on Saturday**) ^{Mr} Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ^{Mt} Now after the Sabbath toward the dawn of the first day of the week, ^{Jo} while it was still dark, ^{Mt} Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb, ^{Lu} taking the spices they had prepared. ^{Mt} And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ^{Mr} And very early on the first day of the week, **approaching the tomb**, ^{Mr} when the sun had risen, they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back — it was very large. ^{Jo} Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran **to find** ^{Jo} Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved,

^{Lu} But when they (the remaining women) went in, ^{Mr} entering the tomb, ^{Lu} they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed **and** ^{Mr} alarmed ^{Lu} about this, behold, two men stood by them in ^{Mr} white **and** ^{Lu} dazzling apparel. **One** ^{Mr} man sitting on the right side. ^{Lu} And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, **one angel** ^{Lu} said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ^{Mt} Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus ^{Mr} of Nazareth, ^{Mt} who was crucified. ^{Lu} He is not here, but has risen ^{Mt} as he said. Come, ^{Mr} see the place where they laid him. ^{Lu} Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words.

<p>28:1 ¶ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.</p>	<p>16:1 ¶ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.</p> <p>16:2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back — it was very large.</p> <p>16:5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.</p> <p>16:6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.</p>	<p>24:1 ¶ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.</p> <p>24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,</p> <p>24:3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen.</p>	<p>20:1a ¶ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early,</p> <p>20:1b while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 20:2a So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved,</p>
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<p>28:5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.</p>	<p>See the place where they laid him.</p>	<p>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." 8 And they remembered his words,</p>	
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2. The Angles Direct the Women to go and tell the Apostles that Jesus is Risen!

(Mat 18:7-8, Mar 16:7-8)

The angel said to the women to^{Mt} go quickly and tell his disciples^{Mr} and Peter^{Mt} that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee.^{Mr} There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out^{Mt} quickly^{Mr} and fled from the tomb,^{Mt} with fear and great joy,^{Mr} for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid^{Mt} and ran to tell his disciples.

18:7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." 8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

3. Mary Runs to Find Simon Peter

(Luk 24:12, Joh 20:2b-10)

Meanwhile, (Mary Magdalene) ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved,^{Jo} and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter^{Lu} rose and^{Jo} went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward 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^{Lu} stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves^{Jo} and he^{Jo} went into the tomb. ^{Jo} He also^{Jo} saw the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 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^{Lu} and he (Peter)^{Lu} went home marveling at what had happened.

<p>24:12a But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves;</p> <p>24:12b and he went home marveling at what had happened.</p>	<p>20:2b 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 toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 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; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.</p>
<p>Joh 20:2a - is repeated to provide needed context. It is highlighted in red to alert the reader.</p>	
<p>4. Mary is the First to Encounter the Resurrected Jesus (Mar 16:9, Joh 20:11-18)</p>	
<p>^{Jo} But Mary <u>Magdalene</u> ^{Jo} 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." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that 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." 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.'" ^{Mr} Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ^{Jo} Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" — and that he had said these things to her.</p>	
	<p>20:11 ¶ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"</p>

<p>16:9 ¶ Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.</p>	<p>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 that it was Jesus. 15 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). 17 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.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" — and that he had said these things to her.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5. The Women Returning from the Tomb Encounter the Resurrected Jesus (Mat 28:9-15)</p>	
<p><u>Meanwhile, while the other women were returning</u> (to tell his disciples) ^{Mt} behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." 11 ¶ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.</p>	
<p>Mat 28:8b – Is repeated here to provide context.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">6. The Apostles do not Believe the Testimony of Mary or the other Woman (Mar 16:10-11, Luk 24:9-11)</p>	
<p>^{Lu} And returning from the tomb <u>the women</u>, ^{Lu} told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ^{Mr} She (Mary Magdalene) ^{Mr} went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. ^{Lu} Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.</p>	

<p>16:10 She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.</p>	<p>24:9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7. The Two Traveling to Emmaus (Mar 16:12-13, Luk 24:13-35)</p>	
<p>^{Mr} After these things he appeared in another form, ^{Lu} that very day two of them ^{Mr} were walking into the country ^{Lu} going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they ^{Mr} went back and told the rest, ^{Lu} what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. ^{Mr} But they did not believe them.</p>	
<p>16:12 After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country.</p>	<p>24:13 ¶ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their</p>

16:13 And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had

	happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.
<p style="text-align: center;">8. The Resurrected Jesus Appears to the Disciples (less Thomas) (Luk 24:36-43, Joh 20:19-23)</p>	
<p>^{Lu} As they were talking about these things, ^{Jo} on the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus ^{Lu} himself ^{Jo} came and stood among them and said to them, ^{Lu} "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ^{Jo} When he had said this, he showed them his hands, ^{Lu} his feet, and his side. ^{Jo} Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ^{Lu} And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. ^{Jo} Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."</p>	
<p>24:36 ¶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them.</p>	<p>20:19 ¶ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.</p> <p>20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."</p>