

A Comparison of Resurrection Accounts

	Matthew 28	Mark 16	Luke 24	John 20
The Time of day	At dawn on first day of the week	Very early on first day of the week (just after sunrise)	Very early on first day of the week	Early on first day of the week (still dark)
Who went to the tomb	Mary Magdalene & the other Mary	Mary Magdalene, Mary (James' mother), & Salome	The women	Mary Magdalene
What happened there at tomb	Violent earthquake; Angel speaks to them; Women meet Jesus	Women bought spices; Angel speaks to them; Women fled tomb, but said nothing	Women take spices to tomb; 2 angels appear; Angel speaks to them; Told the disciples what they found	Mary Magdalene ran to get Simon Peter; Simon Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb; disciples left and Jesus appears to Mary
Angels' Actions	One Angel from heaven, whose appearance was like lightning; clothes were white as snow	Young man dressed in white robes sitting on the right side	2 men appeared in clothes that shone like lightning; stood beside them	2 angels in white seated where Jesus' body had been (one at the head & the other at the foot)
Jesus' words	"Greetings"; "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me"			"Woman, why are you weeping? Who is it you are looking for?"; "Mary"; "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. I am returning to my Father, and your Father, to my God and your God."

Basic Similarities shared by all four gospel accounts

- 1) Jesus was crucified, died and was buried
- 2) Several women left for the tomb very early in the morning to perform care for the body or hold daily grief vigil (including Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James)
- 3) They discovered the stone rolled away and the empty tomb (No body of Jesus found)
- 4) An angel is present or appears and speaks to them words of direction/comfort
- 5) The women fled from the tomb (to tell or not to tell)
- 6) The disciples seem even further confused by the events: if death was a shock, then the resurrection seems even more confusing (Luke 24-Emmaus witness), and they struggle to discern its meaning (John 20) or understand Mary's words-message she delivered.

Luke 24 as a Template of the Structure of the Holy Eucharist

Luke 24:1 "But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. "

Introductory Rite

Luke 24:13-17 Now that very day (*the resurrection day mentioned above*) two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast.”

Liturgy of the Word

Luke 24:26-27 “Jesus said, ‘Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer* these things and enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.”

Liturgy of the Eucharist

(Offertory Luke 24:29 “they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.”)

Luke 24:30-31 “And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.”

Dismissal/Commissioning Rite

Luke 24:33-35 “So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them.... Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the *breaking of the bread*.”

The phrase ‘breaking of bread’ as an expression occurs five times in Acts of the Apostles (2:42, 46; 20:7,11; 27:35).

Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Acts 2:46 “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,”

Acts 20:7 “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”

Acts 20:11 “And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.”

Acts 27:35 “And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.”

Great Question to initiate or deepen a personal relationship

Luke 24:14-17 “the two disciples were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, **“What are you discussing as you walk along?”**

Jesus asked a question designed to engage them in conversation, but Cleopas’ reply reveals a delightful reversal (only Jesus knows the true events’ meaning) for the reader: “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?” (24:18). Of course, if anyone understood, it was Jesus! Yet, Jesus wanted to deepen the disciples’ relationship to Him.

A good bible study would be to outline all of Jesus questions asked of us? (Examen?)

Examples from Gospel according to John

What do you want?	John 1:38	
Why do you involve me?	John 2:4	
You are Israel's teacher, and do you not understand these things?		John 3:10
I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?	John 3:12	
Will you give me a drink?	John 4:7	
Do you want to get well?	John 5:6	
How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?		John 5:44
If you do not believe Moses' writings how will you believe me?		John 5:47
Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?	John 6:5	
Does this offend you?	John 6:61	
What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?		John 6:62
You do not want to leave too, do you?	John 6:67	
Have I not chosen you?	John 6:70	
Has not Moses given you the law?	John 7:19	
Why are you trying to kill me?	John 7:19	
Why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath?	John 7:23	
Where are they? Has no one condemned you?	John 8:10	
Why is my language not clear to you?	John 8:43	
Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?	John 8:46	
If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?	John 8:46	
Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, "I am God's Son"?		John 10:36
Are there not twelve hours of daylight?	John 11:9	
Do you believe this?	John 11:26	
Where have you laid him?	John 11:33	
Do you understand what I have done for you?	John 13:12	
Don't you know me, even after I have been among you such a long time?	John 14:9	
Who is it you want?	John 18:4,7	
Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?	John 18:11	
Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about me?		John 18:34
Why question me?	John 18:21	
If I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?	John 18:23	
Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?	John 20:15	
Friends, haven't you any fish?	John 21:5	
Do you love me? (3x!)	John 21:17	
What is that to you?	John 21:22	

Another Chart of Parallels for Details of Resurrection

Pericope	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Women at the Tomb	28.1-8	16.1-8	24.1-12	20.1-13
Jesus Appears to the Women	28.9-10	16.9-11	24.10-11	20.14-18
The Report of the Guard	28.11-15			
Jesus Appears to Two on the Way to Emmaus		16.12-13	24.13-35	
Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Thomas being Absent)			24.36-43	20.19-23
Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Thomas being Present)				20.24-29
Jesus Appears to the Eleven While They are at Table		16.14-18		
Jesus Appears to the Eleven on a Mountain in Galilee	28.16-20			
Jesus Appears to His Disciples Sea of Tiberias				21.1-14
Paul's Account of the Appearances of Jesus		1 Cor. 15.3-8		