



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **Resurrection Sunday He Is Risen!**

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-25

Jesus was buried shortly before sunset on Friday afternoon, lay in the grave through Saturday, and rose from the dead sometime before sunrise on Sunday morning. Shepard offers the following sequence: The orders of the events of this memorable Sunday, the resurrection day, are probably as follows: the earthquake, followed by the descent of the angel, the opening of the tomb, and the resurrection.

The tomb in which Jesus had been buried and then sealed was not opened by ordinary means but by supernatural intervention, "There was a violent earthquake." An angel of the Lord came from heaven and turned around the stone from the door of the tomb and then sat on it. The only other eyewitnesses to this scene were the temple guards, who were under the influence of the Sanhedrin. The guards were overcome with fear at the glow of the glory of the angels, and the guards became motionless bodies.

When the women (Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, Salome, and Joanna) arrived at the tomb "just after sunrise," they saw that the very large stone had already been rolled away. Regardless of their confusion, the women came to the apostles. Mary of Magdala, the spokesman for the group, "came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" At this message Peter and John started for the tomb. The message by the women did not persuade these two of the fact of Christ's resurrection; so they went to examine for themselves. When they arrived at the tomb, he saw the cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

Mary Magdalene went back the second time to the tomb, and she stood at the tomb crying by herself. When she looked into the tomb, she "saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot." Even though angels had said to her on a previous visit that Jesus Christ had risen, Mary still did not comprehend. If she believed their message that Jesus had risen, there would have been no need for crying.

As Mary turned away from the tomb, she saw a body standing before her. Jesus asked her, "Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" She thought that He was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name. Mary responded, "Rabboni!" Christ calmed their worries and then commissioned them, as He had commissioned Mary, to tell the disciples that they should go to Galilee where He would meet them.

Christ also showed Himself to two disciples on the Emmaus Road. Christ asked the men what they were talking about, and they were so disbelieving that they stood still. They thought that all Jerusalem was worried about the events that had happened at the Passover. The two disciples asked Christ to stay with them, Christ accepted the invite. Instead of acting as a guest, He took over the role of the host. Since it was the Passover season, He took up the bread and broke it and passed it to them. Their blindness was now removed that had been imposed on their minds and that kept them from identifying Him. Christ left them at once. Now they could comprehend why their hearts burned as they paid attention to Him interpret the Scriptures on the Emmaus Road.

The apostles in company with other believers had locked themselves behind barred doors because of fear of the Jews. But such security measures did not stop the appearance of Christ in their midst, for He became visible before them. He showed them the wounds in His hands and feet. The presence of the wounds showed that He did not have another body but the same body. Thomas was not present in the room when Christ showed Himself to the Ten. Later Jesus showed Himself to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. They, like Thomas, had disbelieved.

One week after Christ's appearance to the Ten, He materialized again with soothing words, saying, "Peace be with you!" Thomas this time was there. Knowing of Thomas's continuing skepticism, Christ invited him as He had before invited the Ten, saying, "Put your finger here, and see my hands and put it into my side." Thomas was now persuaded by the testimony of the two, the women, and the Ten. Christ pronounced blessing on those who would believe apart from His manifestation.