

Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #6: Mary Magdalene returns to the tomb and sees two angels, John 20:10-13.

Review of the resurrection narrative up to this point (I have narrowed down the *approximate* hour of the events; MM is Mary Magdalene):

- Event#1: Saturday, 5:45 p.m., April 4, 33: Two Marys go to “look” at tomb, Matt. 28:1.
- Event#2: Sunday, 3:00 a.m., April 5, 33: Earthquake and angel from heaven, Matt. 28:2-4.
- Event #3: Sunday, 4:00 a.m., April 5, 33: MM visits the tomb before daybreak, Jn. 20:1.
- Event #4: Sunday, 4:15 a.m., April 5, 33: MM reports empty tomb to John & Peter, Jn. 20:2.
- Event #5: Sunday, 4:30 a.m., April 5, 33: Peter and John run to the tomb, Jn. 20:3-9.
- Event #6: Sunday, 4:40 a.m., April 5, 33: MM returns to tomb & sees 2 angels, Jn. 20:10-13:

John 20:10-13, So the disciples went away again to their own homes. ¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And 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."

The narrative is straightforward. The disciples return home after visiting the tomb. Mary, having returned to the tomb alone, stoops down and looks in the tomb and sees two angels sitting where Jesus had been laid, one at the head and the other at the feet. The angels ask her why she is crying. What personal love Mary Magdalene had for the Lord: *ipso facto* she was at the cross while He was dying (John 19:25); she was the first at the tomb before daybreak (John 20:1); she runs and tells the disciples that His body was missing; and now that she has returned to the tomb she enters the tomb where two “men”—sitting on the slab where the body of Jesus once laid—begin talking to her to set up one of the magnificent scenes in all of human history.

Concerning the angels: Let’s remember that in the *Bible* when angels appeared to people, they appeared as normal men; they did not have halos or wings. While in certain *visions*, winged beings appeared (e.g., Isa. 6), the *biblical norm* was that they were in humanlike form. Mary Magdalene is filled with grief because she believed that someone stole the body of Jesus. Two “men” are now sitting where Jesus’ body was laid. The angels know exactly why she is grieving. Their question and her answer set the stage for the greatest “recognition scene” in all of human history.

Here are a couple of pics of a first century tomb—outside and inside (the stone in front of the tomb weighed between one and two tons):



In Christ,
Pastor Don