

Differing Accounts of the Resurrection Story

	MARK	MATTHEW	LUKE	JOHN
Who went to the tomb?	Mary Magdalene, the mother of James and Salome	Mary Magdalene and the “other Mary”	Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and, the “other women”	Mary Magdalene
Who was there?	A young man dressed in a white robe	An angel of the Lord and the guards	Two men in dazzling clothes	Two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at feet (Peter and the “other disciple” didn’t see them only Mary)
Who did Jesus appear to at the tomb?	The women who had come to the tomb	Mary Magdalene and the “other Mary”	Mary Magdalene, Joanna, etc.	Mary Magdalene
What was their response?	They were afraid and fled from the tomb	They left with fear and great joy and took hold of his feet and worshiped	Terror and worship then remembrance	Sorrow and then joy
What were they told to do?	Go tell his disciples and Peter he will see them in Galilee	Go tell his disciples that he will see them in Galilee	They told all to the eleven not to “hold on too him”	Go tell the disciples that he is ascending
What did the observers tell?	They told nothing to anyone. (Shorter ending says they told briefly to those around Peter. Longer version said Mary Magdalene told the mourners)	The disciples		The disciples
What did Jesus do afterward?	(From the added ending: Two of them walking into the country - Later the eleven) Ascended	Met the eleven in Galilee	Joined a walk to Emmaus Met them in Jerusalem Told them to touch him Ascended	Entered the room where the disciples were - showed Thomas his wounds - Did many other things not written in the book

Other Incidents

Mark

- Referred Mary Magdalene as the one from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons
- Upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness

Matthew

- A great earthquake rolled the stone away
- The guards were present and were afraid of the angel
- The guards told the chief priests who gave them money to say his disciples stole the body
- Told the disciples he would be with them always

Luke

- Peter running to the tomb but not seeing Jesus
- The Road to Emmaus
- Jesus asking for something to eat
- Jesus expounding on the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms
- Promise of the Holy Spirit telling them to stay in the city until they received “the power from on high”
- The disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy

John

- Peter and the “other disciple” running to the tomb but not seeing Jesus
- The disciples met behind locked doors because of fear of the Jews
- Jesus breathing on them and saying “Receive ye the Holy Spirit” ‘

Rev. John Shelby Spong video: Disagreements Contradictions and Inconsistencies between the Four Gospels about the resurrection accounts. (4 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7iAO-q0PIQ>