

PART XIV

THE RESURRECTION, APPEARANCES, AND ASCENSION OF JESUS

Sec. 169 The Women Prepare to Visit Jesus' Tomb

Matthew 28:1

¹Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.

Mark 16:1

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

Mt 28:1 After the Sabbath: A general indication of time. The women could not walk far *during* the Sabbath, so they waited until *after* the Sabbath. But by then Saturday night was becoming Sunday morning, so early on the *first day of the week* they went to the tomb.

Sec. 170 An Angel of the Lord Rolls Back the Stone

Matthew 28:2-4

²And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.³And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.⁴The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Mt 28:2 He rolled back the stone: The stone was rolled back, the seal broken, and the soldiers rendered helpless not to let the risen Jesus out, but to let the first witnesses in.

Sec. 171 Early Sunday Morning

Matthew 28:5-8

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.⁶"He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.⁷"Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."⁸And they left the tomb

Mark 16:2-8

²Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.³They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"⁴Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.⁵Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.⁶And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has

Luke 24:1-8

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing;⁵and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among

John 20:1

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb.

quickly with fear and great joy and report it to His disciples.

been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him.⁷“But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’”⁸They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Lk 24:1 very early in the morning: The women, named in verse 10, came first thing in the morning to the tomb, not expecting anything unusual, but in order to anoint the dead body with spices to protect against the odor and to honor Jesus. The parallels make it clear they started for the tomb as soon as it was dawn. The fact that they were perplexed (v. 3) on entering the tomb indicates their surprise that the body was gone.

Mt 28:6 There are three important things to believe about the resurrection of Jesus according to the Church Fathers. One is numerical identity: the same body that went into the tomb came out three days later. Two is materiality: it was a material, fleshly body that was raised from the dead. Three is historicity: it really happened in history.

Mk 16:5 a young man. Mark was reporting the scene from the perspective of the women. The messenger looked to them like a young man. That the messenger was an angel is indicated by his long white robe and his supernatural knowledge.

Mk 16:8 since they were afraid: In the oldest manuscripts of Mark, the narrative stops with the phrase in verse 8 “since they were afraid.” Verses 9–20 are not in the oldest manuscripts, and some scholars maintain that these verses are a later attempt by someone other than Mark himself to smooth out what would otherwise be a rather abrupt ending. If verses 9–20 are a later addition, then basically three options are open to interpreters for why Mark’s Gospel ends so abruptly: 1) the real ending of Mark’s Gospel was lost; 2) Mark was unable to finish writing his Gospel and although he stopped at 16:8 it was not his intended ending; or 3) Mark intentionally ended his Gospel abruptly to cause people to think and reflect on his message. English Bibles normally include verses 9–20, since these verses appear in most Greek manuscripts of Mark’s Gospel, but recent translations also communicate that they may be a later addition.

Lk 24:4 dazzling clothes: This description of shiny clothes is how one describes the presence of angels, which explains why the women were terrified (see v. 23).

Lk 24:5 Why are you looking for the living among the dead?: Only Luke records this remark. It makes the key point that Jesus is now alive, resurrected.

Lk 24:7 The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day: This recollection of Jesus’ prediction underscores that what took place was according to the divine plan.

Sec. 172 The Empty Tomb

Luke 24:9–12

John 20:2–10

⁹and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.¹⁰Now other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them,

Cox, S. L., & Easley, K. H. (2007). *Holman Christian Standard Bible: Harmony of the Gospels*. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

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they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. ¹¹But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

“They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb.⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in.⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*,⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Lk 24:11 nonsense: The reaction of the apostles and others to the women’s announcement of an empty tomb is honest. They did not expect or believe this report. They reacted much as a modern person might. That women were the first witnesses to the empty tomb is important. It affirms their value to God. But more importantly shows that this story was not made up. In ancient cultures, a woman could not be a courtroom witness, so if one were to make up such a story, one would not use women as the first witnesses. The women are recorded as having this role because they had this role in real history.

Lk 24:12 amazed: An enigmatic term. Did Peter believe at that point that Jesus had been raised or was he simply amazed at the empty tomb, contemplating its possibility? [Luke 24:24](#) shows the Emmaus disciples also expressing some uncertainty at this point.

John 20:2 Mary’s first suspicion, a natural one in the light of human experience, was that someone had come and stolen Jesus’ body.

John 20:4-8 The implication was that this was not simply a grave robbery, since the body was unwrapped and the cloths neatly left in the tomb. Suddenly much of what Jesus had said regarding His death came clear to the other disciple.

John 20:9 The disciples, although they may now have understood about Jesus’ death, did not fully appreciate what was involved in His rising from the dead.

Sec. 173 Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord

[Mark 16:9-11](#)

[John 20:11-18](#)

⁹Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.¹⁰ She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹When they heard that He was alive and had

¹¹But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;¹² and she saw 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,

been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

“Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus.¹⁵Jesus 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.”¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher).¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘Ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”¹⁸Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and *that* He had said these things to her.

Jn 20:11 Mary Magdalene had not yet entered the tomb, but was standing outside crying. Her world had now collapsed. Mary Magdalene is not mentioned much in John’s Gospel, her first appearance being at the cross (19:25). However, what we do know is that she was a repentant sinner whose Redeemer had died on the cross.

Jn 20:12–13 Either the disciples did not see the angels, or they appeared especially for Mary, perhaps because of her emotionally devastated condition. All she asked of the angels was that they tell her where thieves put the body. The angels made no reply, nor was one needed.

Jn 20:14–16 Mary did not recognize Jesus, because she was not expecting to see a living being. The use of her name, and no doubt the inflection with which it was used, suddenly made her realize that it was Jesus.

Jn 20:17 *Don’t cling to Me:* Some scholars think that Jesus was in the process of ascending, and that after He left Mary He ascended (briefly) before seeing the disciples in the upper room. More likely Jesus was telling Mary to not keep on hanging on Him. He wanted her to go to the disciples and tell them that He would ascend, but that for now He wanted to see them.

Sec. 174 Jesus Appears to the Other Women

Matthew 28:9–10

⁹And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Mt 28:10 *My brothers:* Probably refers not only to the eleven apostles but also to all who had become His followers and were still in Jerusalem, most of whom had accompanied Him from Galilee.

Sec. 175 The Soldiers Are Bribed to Lie

Matthew 28:11–15

¹¹Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened.¹²And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together,

they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,¹³ and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'¹⁴ "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble."¹⁵ And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

Mt 28:13 stole Him while we were sleeping: It is difficult to believe that Pilate's soldiers would admit to falling asleep since that could result in a penalty of death.

Mt 28:15 this story has been spread among Jewish people to this day: To the very day that Matthew was writing these words this rumor was being circulated. Even today nonbelievers propagate this indefensible theory.

Sec. 176 The Emmaus Disciples

Mark 16:12-13

¹²After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country.¹³ They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

Luke 24:13-32

¹³And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place.¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them.¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad.¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.²¹ "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.²² "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning,²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also 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 exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther.²⁹ But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the

day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them.³⁰ When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He *began* giving it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.³² They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”

Lk 24:16 *they were prevented from recognizing Him*: The text does not tell us how this worked. It sets up a scene where the reader knows more about what is happening than the two Emmaus disciples.

Lk 24:18 *who doesn't know the things that happened there in these days*: In one of the great ironic remarks of Scripture, the disciples ask Jesus how He could have missed these unusual events.

Lk 24:19 *Prophet powerful in action and speech*: The Emmaus disciples summarized their expectation, beginning with the prophetic quality of Jesus deeds and sayings. Those who heard His words and saw His deeds would acknowledge this.

Lk 24:21 *we were hoping that He was the One who was about to redeem Israel*: Here is the declaration of messianic hope for Israel.

Lk 24:23 *reported that they had seen a vision of angels who said He was alive*: The women's report is handled with a level of neutrality about its truth.

Lk 24:24 *but they didn't see Him*: The doubt lingered because there was no confirmation at the tomb for those who went to the tomb to check it out. There was no body and nothing else. The matter of fact with which the account reports the hesitation to believe the resurrection speaks to the account's truthfulness.

Lk 24:25 *unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken*: Jesus rebuked their hesitation to believe what the prophets taught.

Lk 24:26 *Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?*: Here is what the prophets taught. Messiah must suffer and enter into glory with God, an allusion to resurrection and where Jesus was as a result.

Lk 24:27 *beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted for them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself*: Likely many of the passages cited in Acts are among the specific texts intended here. Jesus showed how Scripture revealed a divine plan about Messiah.

Lk 24:31 *their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him*: Now God granted them an understanding that Jesus was among them and had been raised.

Sec. 177 Jesus Appears to Simon Peter

Luke 24:33-35

1 Corinthians 15:5a

³³And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them,³⁴saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.”³⁵They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

Lk 24:34 *The Lord has certainly been raised, and has appeared to Simon*: The disciples headed to Jerusalem to tell the group, only to arrive and hear that the Lord has also appeared to Simon Peter. The Lord was appearing in a variety of places to a variety of people.

Sec. 178 The Reality of the Risen Jesus

Mark 16:14

¹⁴Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Luke 24:36-43

³⁶While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you."³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.³⁸And 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."⁴⁰And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.⁴¹While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"⁴²They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;⁴³and He took it and ate *it* before them.

John 20:19-25

¹⁹So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace *be* with you."²⁰And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."²²And 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, *their* sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained."²⁴But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Lk 24:38 *why do doubts arise in your hearts?*: Jesus again assured them of the resurrection and called on them to believe.

Lk 24:39 *Touch Me and see*: Jesus assured them that this was no vision, and that He had been raised physically from the grave in a spiritual body, something 1 Corinthians 15 describes. His eating of the fish confirmed this as well (v. 42).

Sec. 179 Jesus Appears to Thomas and the Other Disciples

John 20:26-31

²⁶After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be*

1 Corinthians 15:5b

⁵and that He appeared to Cephas,

with you.”²⁷Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”²⁸Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Jn 20:28 Thomas’s confession of Jesus as His “Lord” and “God” provides a literary inclusion with the references to Jesus as God in the prologue (1:1, 18).

Jn 20:29 After Thomas realized Jesus was alive (v. 28), Jesus commended those who believe without needing physical, empirical proof.

Jn 20:30-31 The purpose statement of the Gospel tells us several things about John’s account. One is that there were many more things that Jesus did that are not recorded in this one book. The ones that are given, however, were included for two reasons. First is that those who read them may be convinced that Jesus is God’s anointed Messiah and the Son of God. The second reason is so that those who believe that Jesus is Messiah, the Son of God, may have eternal life.

Sec. 180 Jesus’ Third Appearance to the Disciples

John 21:1-25

¹After these things Jesus manifested *Himself* again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.²Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will also come with you.” They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.⁴But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.⁵So Jesus said to them, “Children, you do not have any fish, do you?” They answered Him, “No.”⁶And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a *catch*.” So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.⁷Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and threw himself into the sea.⁸But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net *full* of fish.⁹So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire *already* laid and fish placed on it, and bread.¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have now caught.”¹¹Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.¹²Jesus said to them, “Come *and* have breakfast.” None of the disciples ventured to question Him, “Who are You?” knowing that it was the Lord.¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise.¹⁴This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.¹⁵So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.”¹⁶He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.”¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to

Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.¹⁸” Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.”¹⁹ Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me!”²⁰ Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?”²¹ So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?”²² Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is *that* to you? You follow Me!”²³ Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but *only*, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is *that* to you?”²⁴ This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.²⁵ And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

Jn 21:1 This episode is a subsequent revelation of Jesus to His disciples, but this time not in Jerusalem but by the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee).

Jn 21:4 The lack of recognition may relate to the distance (although v. 8 says they were only 100 yards from shore), or it may be that they were still not expecting to see the living Jesus.

Jn 21:6–7 The miracle prompted the disciple whom Jesus loved to recognize Jesus. The relationship between a physical sign and recognition persisted even after the resurrection.

Jn 21:14 This was the third time in John that Jesus had appeared after the resurrection, the first before the disciples in the upper room (20:19–20) and the second eight days later with Thomas present (20:26).

Jn 21:15–17 Peter became frustrated with Jesus’ persistence in repeatedly asking him the same question. Some scholars think that there is no difference between the words for “love” used. Others think that the meaning of the episode hinges on these words, with a distinction being made between a particularly close kind of love and friendship love. Still others see Jesus leading Peter to make three affirmations of love as corresponding to (and in a sense undoing) his earlier three denials.

Jn 21:19 The reference “to signify by what kind of death he [Peter] would glorify God” in the present passage echoes the similar reference “to signify what kind of death He [Jesus] was about to die” in 12:33. The present instance, therefore, establishes a connection between the deaths of Jesus and Peter.

Jn 21:21 Peter inquired regarding the kind of death the beloved disciple (the one who had asked Jesus about his betrayer; v. 20) would suffer.

Jn 21:22–23 Jesus responded to Peter with a conditional question: “If I want him to remain until I come...” Some mistook the conditional question for an assertive statement, when what Jesus was saying was not that he would not die but that if Jesus were to want that for him, it was none of their business.

Jn 21:24 In the closing epilogue, the disciple whom Jesus loved lays claim to being the one who wrote the Gospel, and that his testimony is true. The notion of true testimony is fundamental to the entire Gospel.

Jn 21:25 The final statement of the Gospel is that Jesus did other things that could have been recorded but that were not (see 20:30–31). Authors continue to write about just the incidents that we know of, which itself is a threat to the number of books that the world can contain!

Sec. 181 Jesus Appears to 500 in Galilee and Gives the Great Commission

Matthew 28:16–20

Mark 16:15–18

1 Corinthians 15:6

¹⁶But the eleven disciples proceeded to ¹⁵And He said to them, “Go into all the ⁶After that He Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus world and preach the gospel to all cre- appeared to more

Cox, S. L., & Easley, K. H. (2007). *Holman Christian Standard Bible: Harmony of the Gospels*. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

had designated.¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mt 28:16 traveled to Galilee, to the mountain: These eleven went to Galilee, for that is where Jesus had promised to meet them. Jesus had called His disciples on a mountain; it was also on a mountain that He departed from them.

Mt 28:19-20 These are the marching orders of the church. The one imperative in these verses is "make disciples." But we are to go into the entire world to do it. We are to witness and win to Christ people from every nation. We are to baptize them and then disciple or teach them all that Jesus taught us to do. Conversion is prerequisite to discipleship. Baptism is the link between conversion and discipleship. Baptism does not save, but it is the first thing Jesus asks for Christian life, growth, and witness.

Mk 16:17 these signs will accompany: Jesus' statement concerning signs is a prediction of what will happen, not a promise of what must always happen. **Mark 16:20** is a report that in fact Jesus' prediction came true when the disciples went out to preach and God confirmed their word through accompanying signs.

Sec. 182 Jesus Appears to James

1 Corinthians 15:7

⁷then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

Sec. 183 Jesus Appears to His Disciples in Jerusalem

Luke 24:44-49

Acts 1:3-8

⁴⁴Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ "You are witnesses of these things."⁴⁹ "And behold, I am sending forth the
³To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me;⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them,

promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

“It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority,⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Lk 24:44 everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled:

Jesus again underscored that what took place was declared in the Scriptures. He then led them into an understanding of what Scripture taught.

Lk 24:46 Three ideas are key: 1) Messiah would suffer; 2) He would rise on the third day; and 3) repentance would be preached starting from Jerusalem (Ac 1-2).

Lk 24:48 witnesses: As Acts 1:8 also affirms, these who saw Jesus were called to give testimony about Him and that He was raised.

Lk 24:49 I am sending you what my Father promised: A reference to the Holy Spirit, as Luke 3:15-17 and Acts 1:5 and all of Acts 2 shows. **until you are empowered from on high:** The work of the Spirit is summarized as the giving of enablement for the task.

Sec. 184 Jesus' Last Appearance and His Ascension

Mark 16:19-20

¹⁹So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. *And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.*

Luke 24:50-53

⁵⁰And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.⁵¹While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵²And they, after worshipping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³and were continually in the temple praising God.

Acts 1:9-12

⁹And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.¹⁰And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.¹¹They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

Lk 24:51 while He was blessing them, He left them: Jesus departed to the side of the Father (Ac 2:30-36).

Lk 24:52 with great joy: Luke ends as it began with a note of joy about the things God had done. Luke likes the note of joy: Luke 1:14; 2:10; 10:20; 13:17; 15:5, 32; 19:37; 24:41, 52.

Lk 24:53 praising God: In obedience, the disciples stayed in Jerusalem thanking God and awaiting the enablement to come, a work described in Acts 2.

Cox, S. L., & Easley, K. H. (2007). *Holman Christian Standard Bible: Harmony of the Gospels*. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.