

# Dissecting the Resurrection

9 AM Bible Study, Apr – May 2024

## Class Purpose Statement:

*This class will examine and help us understand the Gospel accounts, the physical evidence, the spiritual significance, and the eternal promise of Jesus' resurrection!*

## Week 1: Harmonizing the four Gospel accounts of the resurrection

### 1. Information

- a. All four gospels record the resurrection, but they are very different.
- b. Are their differences proof that they are made up, or can they be reconciled into a consistent reality? Let's examine them together. Use the table on the next page

### 2. Understanding

- a. We have to be careful and attentive to detail. Our goal is to observe what scripture **does say**. There are 2 significant risks in this type of Bible study:
  - i. Assuming what scripture **might say**
  - ii. Injecting what scripture **should say**
- b. The differences between the accounts become inconsistencies or discrepancies (or contradictions) when we have fallen victim to either of the risks above.
- c. If we are careful and diligent, we can find a convincing and compelling harmony of the four accounts and recognize the complexity and energy of that first day after Jesus rose.

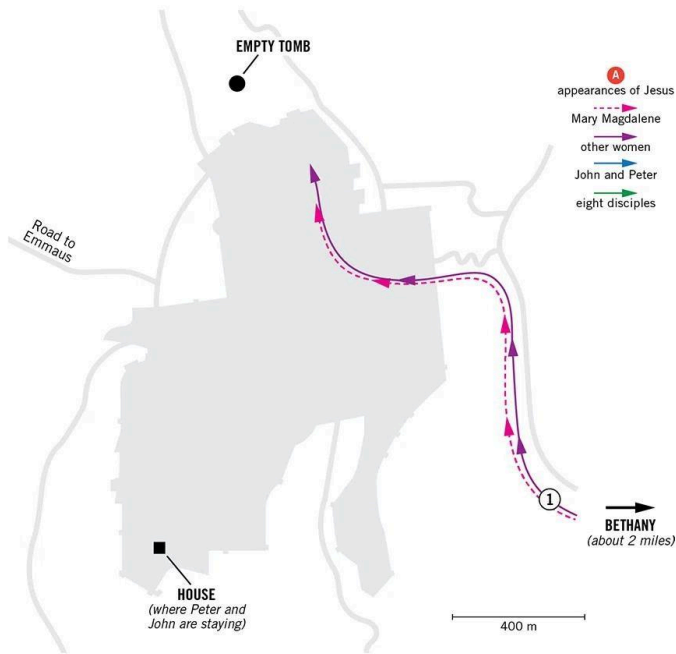
### 3. Application

Believers must not brush aside scripture critiques but approach them with diligence and honesty. Scripture **is true**, so it can stand up to any scrutiny. We will be well served by stepping into these discussions with a desire to learn and to teach instead of trying to evade, defend, or argue.

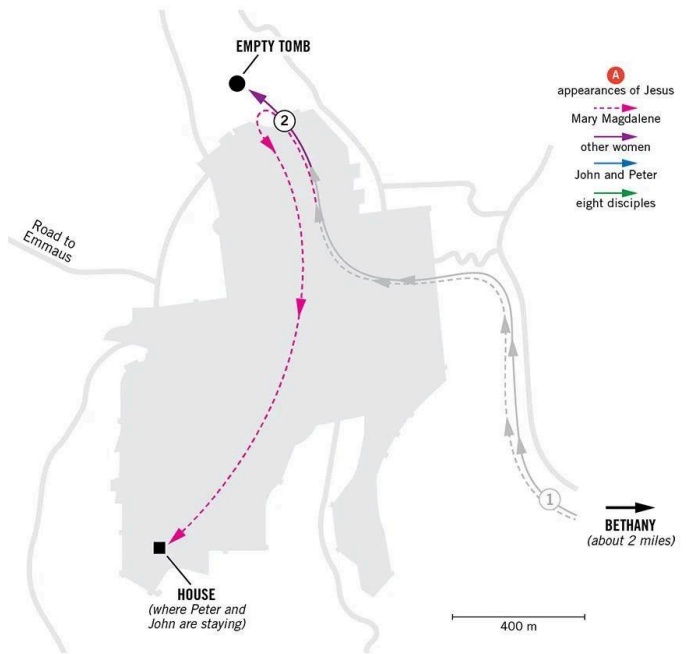
It's important for us to understand that the Gospels are not meant to be history books, biographies, or novels. They are a unique literary form but that does not mean they are any less credible.

Combining our understanding of the events of that first day with the rest of the material you will examine in this class will give you a solid foundation to know and understand the truth and power of Jesus' resurrection.

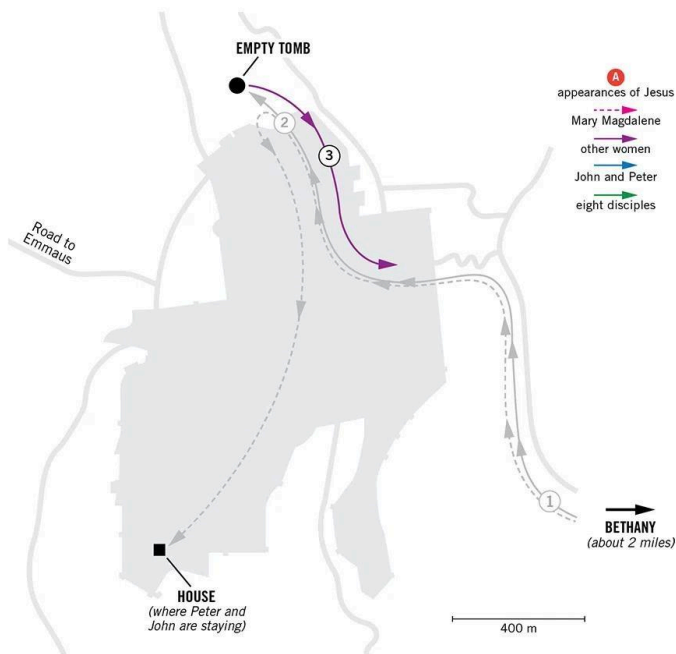
<b>Elements</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<b>Timing</b>				
<b>Who's mentioned</b>				
<b>Movement of key players</b>				
<b>When/where does Jesus appear</b>				
<b>Who does He appear to?</b>				



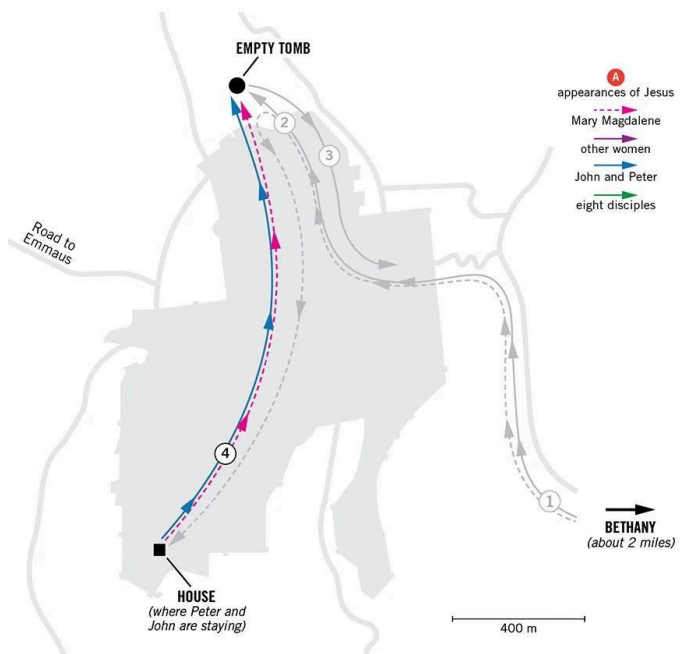
**Map #1:** Mary M & others to the Tomb from Bethany.



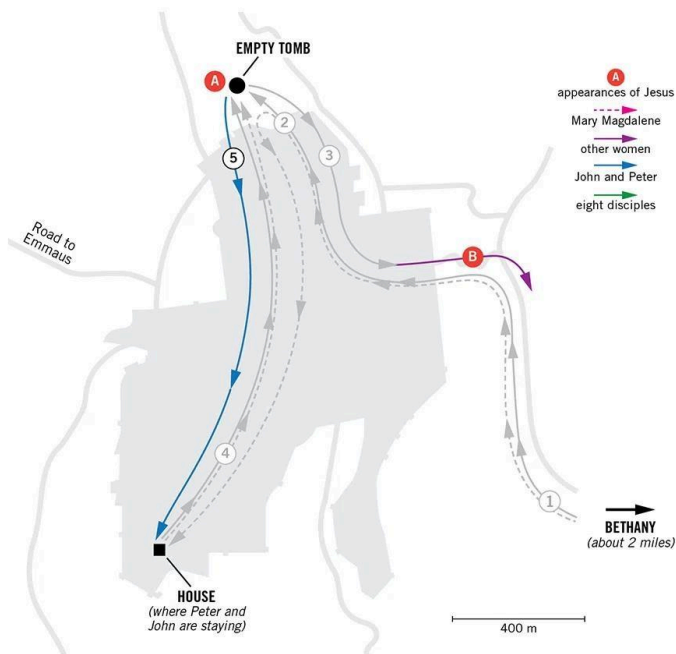
**Map #2:** Mary M to Peter & John, other women stay there.



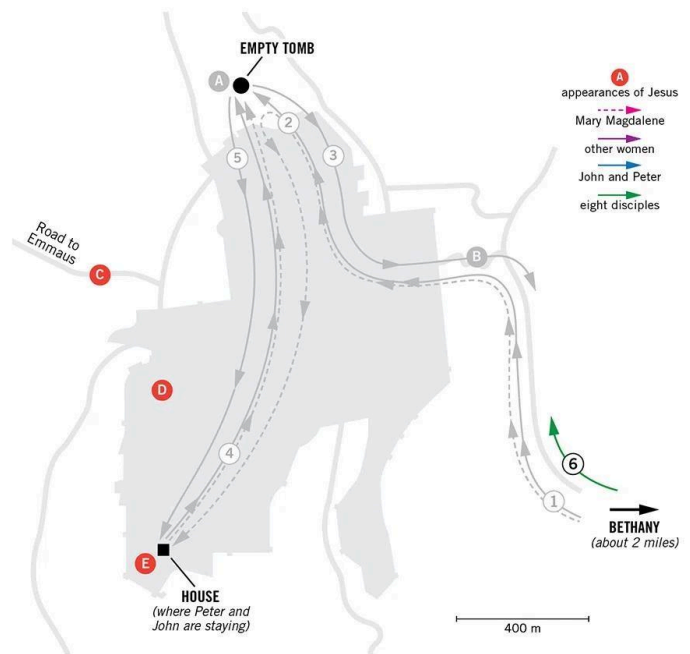
**Map #3:** Other women to disciples (Bethany?) stopping in city to tell other (Clopas?).



**Map #4:** Peter, John, Mary M back to the tomb together



**Map #5:** Peter & John return, Mary meets Jesus (A) other women meet Jesus (B) between Jerusalem and Bethany.



**Map #6:** The disciples travel from Bethany; Jesus appears to many in sequence Peter (C/D), Clopas (D/C), and then the disciples (E).

This harmony is courtesy of Answers in Genesis. You can find it [here](https://rb.gy/g0wk77): <https://rb.gy/g0wk77>

Key things to keep in mind (that are entirely possible with the scripture evidence):

- Not all the disciples were necessarily together; only Peter & John are mentioned to be at the trials/cross (John 18:15), the rest fled (Matt 26:56)
- The disciples may have been in Bethany - they were known to spend time there
- Mary clearly doesn't go into the tomb - she immediately goes to Peter & John (John 20:1-2)
- Figuring Mary went to Peter & John, the other women go to the other disciples. They stop in Jerusalem to tell others (maybe Clopas). His wife may have been with them (John 19:25)
- The disciples in Bethany go to Jerusalem to be with Peter and John
- Jesus appears to Peter and Clopas (in either order), then finally to all the disciples (except Thomas) in Jerusalem.