

I. Resurrection Day Experience

- A. Holiday - We are told by the writer of Hebrews that all the holy festivals that God instructed the Jewish people to participate in were pointing to, and were going to be ultimately fulfilled by, the Messiah. It's no coincidence that God arranged for a holy festival called "First Fruits" to occur the first day of the week after the Passover.
1. First Fruits Scene - This holiday was to be a celebration of the promised harvest. The agricultural community was to go through their fields and put together a bundle of the spring crop and bring it to the temple to offer it to the Lord. This bundle was presented to the Lord as a representation of the entire crop that would soon be harvested. This offering was considered holy and when dedicated to the Lord made the rest of the crop holy in the same way.
- B. Implications of Context - In the morning hours, the rural community was making their way into Jerusalem to present their first fruits offering to the Lord in the temple. Jesus presented Himself to His Father and to the disciples as the first fruits of the harvest of God's people.

II. Prophetic Types and Shadows

- A. Resurrection Shadows - It's almost overwhelming to see all the themes of life or resurrection from death that are foretold in the scriptures. (Rom. 4:16-19)
1. Three Days and Nights - The theme of life or resurrection after three days of sacrifice or suffering has echoed through the pages of scripture for hundreds of years before the Messiah was buried in the tomb. (Jesus Referenced Noah)
 - a. Three days of no water and poisoned water turned sweet and drinkable. (Ex. 15:22-27)
 - b. Three years of tribulation unto ultimate salvation (Rev. 12:14)

III. The Progressive Event

- A. At Dawn - All four of the Gospels tell us that the women rose very early on Sunday morning, at dawn, with large baskets of spices and made their way to the tomb in order to properly anoint Jesus' dead body. You can imagine that they were absolutely devastated and exhausted but yet were sick that they had not been able to properly care for their beloved master's body. (Mk. 16:1-3; Mt. 28:1; Lk. 24:1; Jn. 20:1)
1. Baskets of Spices - Historical records tell us that it was customary that anointing the dead required around 100 pounds of spices and oils.
- B. Angel Rolls away the Stone - As the women are approaching the tomb, they remember the size of the gravestone that covered the tomb entrance and are concerned they will not be able to move it. Just then, an angel rolls the stone away and the ground shakes. (Mt. 28:2-4)
1. The stone that covered Jesus' tomb weighed between one and two tons. The dimensions of the stone had a diameter of approximately four to five feet. The groove aimed to facilitate the rolling motion required to open and close the tomb.
- C. The Women encounter Angels - When the women arrive at the tomb, they find the stone rolled away and they encounter angels who tell them that Jesus is alive and they invite them to go into the tomb and see the place where His body used to be. The angels tell them to go and inform the disciples of His resurrection. (Mk. 16:4-7; Mt. 28:5-7; Lk. 24:1-8)
- D. Ran Back and Told the Others - It's hard to imagine what the feelings and thoughts of these women would have been as they made their way back into the city of Jerusalem. They would have passed hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals, many of which were making their way to the temple to celebrate the Feast of First Fruits. They find their way back to the upper room where the disciples are hiding in fear of the Jews and tell them of their discovery and angel encounter. (Mk. 16:8; Lk. 24:9-11)

- E. Peter and John Investigate - For the most part, the disciples reject the women's story of resurrection and angels. However, Peter and John are stirred enough to go and investigate. We are told that they ran to the tomb and John arrived first, then Peter. What causes them to believe is the empty tomb and the folded graveclothes indicating that Jesus had risen. I believe we are to understand that the missing body of Jesus was not stolen or the gravesite plundered by robbers. Rather, wherever Jesus' body was, someone had taken the time to neatly fold the graveclothes before they left. (Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:3-10)
1. There are multiple interpretations of the folded clothes that are generally only understood if you are privy to possible traditional customs of the Jews. Unfortunately, none of them really hold up under scrutiny.
- F. Jesus Encounters Mary Magdalene - Mary Magdalene had made her way back to the gravesite and sat outside weeping. She is absolutely convinced that someone has taken away Jesus' body. As she addresses the angels, and Jesus whom she does not recognize, the original Greek language carries with it an angry and authoritative tone, "Tell me where you have put Him!" Jesus replies by saying her name, "Mary", and she immediately recognizes that it is Him. (Jn. 20:11-18)
- G. Road to Emmaus - Later in the day Jesus encounters two disciples who were more than likely fleeing to a neighboring city called Emmaus. Jesus's identity is veiled in some way and He asks them what they are talking about. They tell Him of how brokenhearted they are as they thought Jesus was the Messiah, but now He was dead. Jesus informs that if they would have read and believed the prophets they would have understood and expected the Messiah to die before He would usher in all the promises of God. He then took them through the entirety of the Old Testament, revealing Himself in the scriptures to the two He was walking with. Their hearts burned within them and that evening as they ate together they recognized Him and He disappeared before their eyes. (Lk. 24:13-35)
- H. Later that Evening the Disciples were Together - That evening the rest of the disciples were all together hiding from the Jewish leaders. Up to this point it seems that most of them still did not believe any of the reports from those who had seen Him alive. John makes it clear that the doors were locked, but Jesus appeared in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

- I. Peace be with You - I believe there are unexplored depths of this phrase and why He chose to have this be the first thing He said to this trembling crowd of disciples. There is absolutely an aspect of this that He could not have truly said until He accomplished His substitutionary death and resurrection. The theme or idea of Peace from Him being in us and available to us in a transcendent and permanent way permeates the Epistles. (Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 20:19-23, "Peace" over 60 times in the Epistles)

- J. Jesus Eats with Them - The significance of Jesus asking for them to touch Him and give Him food was more than just proof that He was not a ghost. It was an evidence of the promise of physical resurrection and its implications. There is very little room for an eternal perspective without the reality of a physical body. The mysteries of this abound, but the truth of it is absolutely concrete through these words and actions of Jesus, as well as the rest of the promises of God concerning eternal life. (Lk. 24:37-42)

- K. Receive the Holy Spirit - The final thing recorded concerning the words and actions of Jesus on the day of His resurrection is that, "Once His disciples believed, He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" Just as God breathed the "Ruach", the breath of life, into Adam and he became a living being, God in the flesh now breathes the "Ruach" into those who believe and their souls spring to new life, the very life of God. (Jn. 20:22; Eph. 2:1; 1 Cor. 15:45)