

# Law & Order

## Looking for Jesus

March 27, 2016



**Law and order.** We've all violated both. But, **Jesus died to satisfy God's perfect Law, on our behalf, and He rose to establish His rule and reign and bring order in our chaos.** (Rom 8:3-4)

However, *to this day*, Paul says, **when the Law is read, a veil is over the hearts of those who aren't looking for His order.** (2 Cor 3:14-16)



His Word stands firm! Yet, scores of slick YouTube accusations claim the Gospel accounts of the empty tomb are hopelessly contradictory. **The world and the enemy will constantly try to discredit the divinity of Jesus, the legitimacy of His Word, and the power of His resurrection.**



So, we're gonna put line-on-line, law-on-law, here-a-little-there-a-little as Isaiah says, to see the fulfillment of the Law *in order*. (Is 28:10)

### **Golgotha (at the cross) Friday, just before noon**

Matthew (27:56), Mark (15:40), and Luke (24:10) *do not mention Jesus' mother at the cross; but all do record a: Mary-the-mother-of-James-and-Joseph.* Now, John (19:25) *does mention Jesus' mother but not Mary-the-mother-of-James-and-Joseph; but ...*



Isn't this **[isn't Jesus] Mary's** son and the **[eldest]** brother of **James**, [in Hebrew: **Jacob (their grandfather's name); and] Joseph [their father's name]** ... – Mark 6:3b NIV

**There's no mysterious Mary, totally unknown but so significant she supersedes Jesus' mom in three Gospels. No. All four speak of one.**



When Jesus saw his mother there, and **the disciple whom he loved** standing nearby, he said to his mother, **"Dear woman, here is your son,"** and to the disciple, **"Here is your mother."** **From that time on, this [beloved] disciple took her into his home.** – John 19:26-27 NIV

Beside Mary is her Sister Salome and Mary Magdalene (Jn 19:25; Mk 15:40) who once had seven demons; (Lk 8:2) and, a Galilean ladies' group led by an aristocrat named Joanna. (Mk 15:41; Lk 8:3, 24:10)

**JOHN** records **Mary Magdalene's first encounter at the tomb.** **MATTHEW** and **MARK** track her return with Jesus' Mother. And, **LUKE** follows Joanna's Galilean group shortly after.

## The Tomb, Friday, 5:00 p.m.'ish

The women watch Joseph and Nicodemus prepare Jesus' body with 75 pounds of fragrant burial spices. (John 19:38-40; Luke 23:55; Mark 15:46-47; Mat 27:59-61)

[From here, Luke reports that] The women who had come with Jesus **from Galilee** [led by Joanna (Luke 24:10)] ... **went to their home** and **prepared** spices and perfumes. **But they rested** [lit. *ceased from their labor*] **on the Sabbath** [Friday at sunset (about 6:00 pm)] ... – Luke 23:55-56 NIV

[Whereas, Mark reports that] **When the Sabbath was over,** [Saturday at sunset] **Mary Magdalene,** [Seven-Demon Mary] **Mary the mother of James,** [Jesus' Mother Mary, now staying with the beloved disciple] and [Sister] **Salome bought spices** so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body [in the morning]. – Mark 16:1 NIV

## Pilates Office, Friday, 6:30 p.m.'ish

The Sabbath has begun, and the chief priests and the Pharisees return to Pilate with a fear. (Mat 27:62)



“Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘**After three days** [lit. *the start of, or among, the third daylight* (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)] **I will rise again.**’ [Even Jesus' enemies knew His claim! So, why wasn't a *single solitary disciple* waiting with anticipation, or *at least* to see if what He taught was true?] **So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the [end of the] third day.** Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.” **“Take a guard,”** Pilate answered. [They had posted their best **Centurion** and guardsmen at the cross for fear of Jesus' massive following attempting to save Him; so, it make's sense to reassign these same men to the tomb] **“Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.”** So they went and made the tomb secure [in direct violation of the Sabbath] **by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.** – Matthew 27:63-64 NIV

[Mark later writes that] **When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, [Sunday] he appeared first to Mary Magdalene ...** – Mark 16:9a NIV

Why? **What's so special about “Seven-Demon” Mary?** It's quite simple: **She's the only one who was looking for Him!**

Let's line-up-on-line this *baby!* We're weaving together **Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1,** and **John 20:1-17** from the NIV.

**No verse is left out, or out of order within its own Gospel.**

**And, the added information has been deduced from other verses.**

Early on the first day of the week, **[Sunday]** while it was still dark, **[before 4:15 am (in Jerusalem in the Spring)]** Mary Magdalene went to the tomb **[without her friends or her spices. Why? It's dark. Dangerous. She's alone. Unprotected. And, she finds it guarded by Roman soldiers. But, her Rabbi/Teacher taught that He'd return in the daylight; so, she has to get there before the light, while it's still dark. But, why would the commanding officer allow her to approach? Well, if he was at the cross, he'd certainly be sympathetic, he and his men having declared Jesus as the Son of God upon His death. (Mat 27:54; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47) So, she got permission and carried her torch to the tomb] and saw [what the guards had failed to see] that the stone had been **removed** **[airō: lifted, separated, tilted]** from the **entrance**. **[mnēmeion: tomb wall (not doorway) These terms are only used here; the other reports will describe the stone being rolled (apoklyiō) from the doorway (thyra) The doorway is not exposed; the stone is tilting out, from the wall, pushed from the inside, creating a gap just big enough to go through, just small enough to go unnoticed. But then, these soldiers are facing away from the tomb, guarding it against an outsider coming in ... not an Insider coming out! But, this is not how Mary expected the Son of God to rise. And, He certainly didn't have to do it this way; but, it's just like Jesus to do the most astonishing thing in the most unexpected way!]** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, **the one Jesus loved**, **[where Jesus' Mother Mary was staying]** and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and **we** **[she and they]** don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, **[likely to keep up with Mary (John 20:11)]** but the other disciple **outran** Peter **[this isn't a race. The terms protrechō and tachyon simply mean to run before, or ahead of, or sooner than]** and reached the tomb first. **[It wouldn't be too smart for both disciples to run toward the spear tips of the guys guarding the tomb ... however sympathetic they may be! So, the more diplomatic of the two (the not-Peter) asked and was granted permission to approach]** He bent over **[stuck his head between the wall and the stone]** and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **[Because, he has to notify the guards, explain the situation, and ask permission for Peter to approach – which the horrified commander quickly grants, instantly aware of the death-sentence implications to himself and his men]** Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, **arrived** **[erchomai: came forth]** and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as **[what the other hadn't]** the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. **[Either His tallit (prayer shawl) or something equally significant and deserving of religious respect, because]** The cloth was **folded up by itself**, separate from the linen. **[And, this was a cause for panic!] Finally** **[after much interrogation and discussion]** the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, **[was granted permission, and]** also went inside. **He saw** **[the head cloth carefully folded, but failed to realize that Jesus had folded it] and believed**. **[Not that Jesus was alive, for] (They** **[Peter and this beloved disciple]** still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) **[In fact, even when the women later tell 'em that they saw Him, they won't believe (Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:9-11) So, what did the beloved disciple believe? That the Jewish officials who sealed the tomb (the only ones who****

would've religiously folded the head cloth), took the body; meaning: they must be planning to accuse and kill the leaders of Jesus' movement!] Then the disciples [relieved not to be arrested on the spot] went back to their homes, [and began gathering the group for an emergency meeting; which explains why they were all together that evening, behind *locked* doors, for fear of the *Jews*, (John 20:19) when there was otherwise little to fear]

**but Mary** [who refused to go home with other two, stayed and] stood outside the tomb crying. [Why?! Why would she stay in such a crazy-volatile situation? Because, her reason for coming hasn't changed. She's looking for Jesus. A stolen body doesn't change the situation ... *it just complicates it*] As she wept, [something must've caught her eye, or her ear, something inside the tomb; so] she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated [*very quietly*] where Jesus' body had been, **one at the head and the other at the foot**. [*Just like the two angels who sat on the mercy seat, on the Ark of the Covenant, in the Holy of Holies (Ex 25:17-19)*] They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" ["You've misread the situation." But, in her teary-eyed condition, in the midst of the commotion, with men entering and exiting, Mary mistook them for investigating officials] "They have taken **my Lord** away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." [*And daylight is quickly approaching!*] At this, **she turned around** [*Why? I'm guessing she was hit by a wave of fragrant spices that she'd smelled when He was buried*] and saw Jesus **standing** there, [probably very close, and obviously having chosen a moment when the guards were preoccupied, possibly canvassing the grounds] but she did not realize that it was Jesus. [Just a guy suspiciously smelling like Jesus' burial spices; and, based on what was left in the tomb, wearing little to nothing, which would be quite picturesque for the Last Adam, (1 Cor 15:45) having restored what the first Adam lost, to once again walk in a garden, naked and unashamed; and, which was not uncommon for common laborers (John 21:7) in that day, like, *say, a gardener* (the cultural norm was to simply avert your gaze if you had to speak to 'em – *which she does*); and, He may or may not be holding *the pruning hook that the prophets depict in His hand on the day of His victory harvest.* (Isiah 2:3-4; Rev 14:14)] "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? **Who is it you are looking for?**"

And there's the question! **How 'bout you?**

He told 'em *when* He'd rise, gave 'em parables about keeping watch, yet only one has come to wait and watch and witness His power.

**Seek and you shall find; don't ... and you won't.**

**You gonna be like Seven-Demon Mary? Do whatever it takes to follow Jesus? Or, you just gonna go back home, like Peter and the beloved disciple, and trade understanding and truth for fear?**

**Thinking he was the gardener**, [*she averts her gaze, ignores His question, and cuts to the chase*] she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." [*Her reaction more than*

answers His question; and Jesus seems quite pleased] Jesus said to her, "Mary." [And, because she had averted her gaze] **She turned toward him** [again, and reminding us of what Paul later writes, that: "Even to this day when Moses [the Law] is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone **turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away,**" (2 Cor 3:14-16)] and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means **Teacher**). [Why Teacher? It's reflexive: "What You taught is true!" And then, before John even had time to write it, she grabbed hold with no intention of letting go!]

Jesus said, "**Do not hold on to me,** [My one and only faithful friend] for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" [And so she did. She returned to the house of the beloved disciple, where Jesus' Mother Mary was staying. Mark will later write of this moment: "When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it." (Mark 16:9-11) But, one person agreed to go; in fact, they couldn't stop her!] **After the Sabbath, [sunset Saturday] at dawn Very early on the first day of the week, [on the first day of the week; On the first day of the week] [Sunday] very early in the morning, just after sunrise, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary [the Mother Mary] went [not to anoint the body with the spices they had purchased, but] to look at [theōreō: behold; view attentively; consider; ascertain; find out by seeing] the tomb.** [Wait. What about the soldiers? Doesn't it seem like the commander would've reported this to the authorities? I mean, they're in enough trouble as it is; and with three disciples leaving the scene, he knows that word will travel fast. But, this would've interrupted God's time-table. So, while Mary and Mary were getting ready to go ...] **There was a violent earthquake,** [Matthew describes this earthquake as being *even greater* than the one at the cross, when boulders burst and tombs broke open {*seismos* (27:54) vs. *megas seismos* (28:2)}. I picture rocks falling and shattering around the soldiers in this garden, and tree limbs smacking together; or, as Isaiah prophesied, regarding the day God's Word achieves the purpose it was sent: "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." (Is 55:11-12) How else can trees clap the ends of their limbs? And, how sad, that with no one waiting to wave palm branches and shout their praise, the very rocks had to cry out (Luke 19:39-40)] **they were on their way to the tomb and [wanting to see inside, but unable to shimmy through the gap] they asked each other, "Who will roll [apoklyiō: roll away] the stone away from the entrance [thyra: door] of the tomb?"** [Unaware that Jesus had dispatched an angel to accommodate His mother] **for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back [lit. rolled away] the stone [How far do you suppose he blew the door off that baby?] and sat on it. [or: "Dwelled" on it. Why? Remember God's time-table?] His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.** [And, if he's anything like the angels around God's throne that Isaiah describes, he looks like a fiery serpent with six wings! (Isaiah 6:2)] **The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.** [This guardian angel is guarding

these soldiers until he's told it's time to let 'em go] the **women** [in Joanna's group (Luke 23:55)] took the spices they had **prepared** [not purchased; before the Sabbath, not after (Luke 23:56)] and went to the tomb. [To further care for Jesus' dead body; completely unaware of the situation at the tomb, where Mary and Mary were just arriving] But when **they** [Mary and Mary] **looked up**, [in shock at the lightning-angel] they saw that the stone, which was **very large**, had been rolled away. [How far do you suppose that baby went? They also can't help but notice the corpse-like, soldiers on the ground] The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for **I know that you are looking for Jesus**, [because, this is exactly what they've come to do] who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **Then** [once you've seen "the place where he lay"] **go quickly** and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. **There you will see him.'** **Now I have told you.**" [What an odd thing for an angel to say; but, hold that thought – and keep that underline in place] As **they** [Mary and Mary] entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "**You are looking for Jesus** [because, this is exactly what they've come to do] the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples **and Peter**, [This'll send some shock waves! At this point, nobody but Peter knows that, early Friday morning, he had renounced himself as a disciple, *publically, with an oath!* (John 18:17; Mat 26:72)] 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. **There you will see him, just as he told you.**" [Apparently referring to the lightning-angel outside the tomb, and in Matthew's Gospel! Because, previous to this, Jesus hasn't made this full statement (Mat 26:32; Mark 14:28)] So Trembling and bewildered, the women [the women] [Mary and Mary] went out [under the "lightning angel" and over the corpse-like soldiers] hurried away and fled from the tomb. [from the tomb,] [Racing past Joanna's group who were coming to the tomb; but] They **said nothing to anyone**, because they were **afraid**. afraid **yet filled with joy**, and ran to **tell** his disciples. [Leaving Joanna's group dumb-struck and incredibly curious as to what was going on at that tomb – but, *that's another story*] **Suddenly** Jesus met **them**. ["Seven-Demon" Mary and His Mother Mary] "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there **they** will see me."

**So, why does Jesus' mother get to be the second person to see Him?**

Quite simple: **she's the second to go looking.**

**And, why does Mary Magdalene get to see Him twice? She went *looking* twice.**

**Don't listen to the world's verdict on the reliability of the Lord or His Word; accept it, or reject it, but don't dismiss it without looking for yourself – and coming to your own conclusion.**

**And, if you're looking for Him, don't worry, He'll find you.**