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OCTOBER

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 10

## Mary Magdalene: The First Eyewitness of the Resurrected Christ

### The Empty Tomb

*"Now 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. <sup>2</sup> So she \*ran and \*came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and \*said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." <sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; <sup>5</sup> and stooping and looking in, he \*saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> And so Simon Peter also \*came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he \*saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the disciples went away again to their own homes.*

*<sup>11</sup> But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And they \*said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She \*said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and \*saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus \*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." <sup>16</sup> Jesus \*said to her, "Mary!" She turned and \*said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus \*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, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene \*came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her." John 20 (NASB)*

The focus of this passage from the Apostle John's perspective is the eyewitness account of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus by Mary Magdalene. According to the Gospel of John, as well as the other three gospels and the whole of the New Testament, the ultimate proof of Jesus' identity as the Son of God and the Messiah is His resurrection from the dead. In particular, the question Mary Magdalene's eye witness account of Christ's resurrection begs is: Will you believe in the Christ as the resurrected Savior of the World and Son of God?

The culmination of the signs and the eyewitness accounts in the Gospel of John is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the eyewitness accounts of Mary Magdalene and the other disciples to the resurrected Christ. The recorded history of the resurrection of Jesus is not peculiar to the Gospel of John. The life and ministry of Jesus culminates in all four Gospels in his sacrificial death by crucifixion and his resurrection. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the main event of Christianity. No other world religion claims its founder rose from the dead. If true, it is the greatest event in all of history and should change all of our lives. If false, it's the greatest farce in all of history, and we, among all people are most to be pitied, according to the Apostle Paul.

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the greatest expression of God's power in his revelation of Himself to the world and toward those who believe in Christ. We become children of God through belief in Christ as the Son of God and the Messiah, as the Savior of the world, so *that* we will have eternal life—life forever knowing God and Christ through the Spirit and worshipping them now and forever, now in our mortal state and then in our resurrected bodily immortal state. As John MacArthur says, "The purpose of salvation in Jesus is a resurrected people."

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus occurs on the first day of the week, Sunday, after Sabbath day ended the evening of Saturday at sundown. The various Gospel writers record the women going to the tomb of Jesus "in the early morning," "at early dawn," and "while it was still dark," with the sum total being that it was just prior to daylight. The Greek word for "early" in the text is *proi*, which is the technical word for the last of the four watches into which the night was divided, which was 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. It's dark at this time, and more so, because it is in the garden without the ambient light. Also, the sun is rising in the east behind the Mount of Olives, which stands over the city of Jerusalem, casting the city in shadow until the sun rises over the top of the Mount.

Christ resurrects from the dead on the first day of the week as counted by the Jews, with the seventh day being the Sabbath commemorating the day God rested in the creation account. We meet as the church on Sunday, the first day of the week, as a reminder of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Although Mary Magdalene is the first at the empty tomb, she is not alone as noted in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Present are Salome, the sister of Jesus' mother Mary and also the mother of James and John, sons of Zebedee; Mary, the mother of the lesser James, the apostle who is the son of Alphaeus, as well as others. Mary Magdalene is first encountered in Luke's gospel, listed among the women supporting the Galilean ministry of Christ. Jesus freed her from the bondage of seven demons. One can only imagine the life Mary lived prior to knowing Christ, but certainly it was a life lived out of her own control and in the control of demons, as the demoniac who lived among the tombs whom Jesus healed and returned to his right mind.

## *Newcomers Class & Lunch*

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. As a part of the class, we will explain what we believe, how we operate, our vision, and a little about the background of our church. This informal setting will allow the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church.



Our next class is Sunday, October 20th, at 12:15pm, in Fellowship Hall. Lunch & Childcare are provided.

If you would like to attend, please see the Welcome Desk, contact the church office at [mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org](mailto:mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org), or call 972-641-2717 to RSVP for this class and childcare, if needed.

## *Children's Ministry*



**Wednesdays, 6:30 PM**

For children 3 years by September 1st through 6th grade.  
Children work on Scripture memorization,  
have a time of Bible study, and play fun games.





## Women's Ministry

### Weekly Bible Studies:

#### **Sunday Mornings**

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich -

The Book of James, Library, 9:45 AM

Joy Richards -

The Book of Ephesians, Lecture Room (by water fountain), 9:45 AM

#### **Sunday Nights**

Meg Trihus -

Old Testament Survey, Conference Room, 5:00 PM

#### **Wednesday Nights**

Diana Hines

The Book of II Samuel, Lecture Room (by water fountain), 6:45pm

Cyndi King -

Book of Acts, Conference Room, 6:45 PM

#### **Friday**

Cyndi King - 9:00 AM -

The Minor Prophets, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom), 9:00 AM

Jamye Aldape -

What Love Is Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 11:00AM

Contact Rachel at  
[rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org)  
to find out the latest events & activities!

# BREAKOUT Breakfast

## \$5

## 10 - 26 - 19

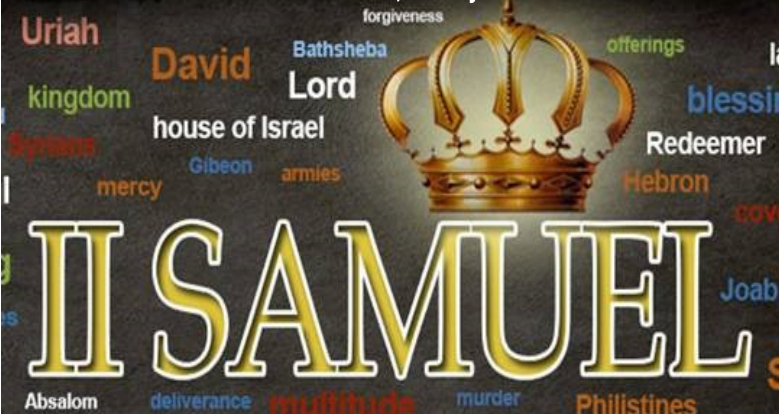
10am-1:30pm

Register by: October 23rd

The breakouts at Conference are always great, and every year so many people want to attend MORE than 2. This year we will do a breakout breakfast in October. You will be able to pick up 2 of the breakouts you missed.

Beginning Wednesday night, October 2nd, at 6:45pm

in the Lecture room, led by Diana Hines



3rd Mondays

**What is it?** A gathering of moms who are looking for support and answers, a safe place to bring our "junk" that we are dealing with on a daily basis and know that we are not alone!

**Who is it for?** ALL MOMS! Moms of preschoolers, school age children, teenagers, even adults! It doesn't matter if you have a traditional family, blended family, or you're a single mom. If you are a mom, this group is for you!

**When is it and what time is it?** The third Monday of every month at 6:45pm.

**Where is it?** Matthew Road Baptist Church in the Conference Room

**Is childcare available?** Yes, for \$5/child pre-paid for the semester (\$20/child for Sept.-Dec.)

**Contact information:**

Cyndi King 214-762-9437 or [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)

\*We also have a secret Facebook group. Let us know if you would like to be added.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

# WHAT LOVE IS

Starting  
September

kelly minter

[lifeway.com/whatloveis](http://lifeway.com/whatloveis)  
#whatloveis

The Letters of  
1, 2, 3 John

The Letters of 1, 2 & 3 John were written to encourage followers of Jesus to remain faithful to the truth. Believers are challenged to look at contrasting themes such as walking in the light instead of darkness, truth versus lies and deception, loving God more than loving the world, and the meaning of true fellowship and community rather than shallowness.

Who: Women's Study  
Where: Fellowship Hall  
When: Fridays; 9/13 - 11/1, 11AM  
Cost: \$14.00 for a book

Potluck For more information:  
Text Jamye 817.614.7312

Mary's life prior to encountering Christ must have been at minimum chaotic and certainly miserable, so much so that once freed from this life by Christ, she believes he is Messiah, loves him for the rescue he has brought her and is whole-heartedly engaged in supporting His ministry. Out of such great thankfulness and love for her Savior, she wants to make certain his dead body receives the proper care.

Mary Magdalene and the other women return to the tomb in which they observed Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Mary Magdalene and the other women who supported Jesus' ministry return to the tomb to complete the burial process of the corpse, as Nicodemus and Joseph were rushed to complete the process prior to the start of Sabbath.

Tombs were closed by a large, circular stone placed in a groove in front of the entry way. The circular stone was rolled in the groove in front of the opening. The women do not consider how they will roll the stone away from the entry way. They find the stone rolled away from the entrance. They are unaware of a local earthquake that occurring overnight rolling the stone away nor of Angels appearing, frightening away the soldiers guarding the tomb, as recorded in the twenty-eighth chapter of Matthew. The soldiers, a Roman guard placed at the tomb by Pilate at the behest of the Sanhedrin lest the disciples steal the body and claim resurrection, return to the Sanhedrin to report the empty tomb. These soldiers are bribed by the Sanhedrin to provide a false report that the body of Jesus was stolen.

Mary Magdalene and the women are the first to witness the empty tomb. Mary's assumption is someone has taken the body of Jesus not that he has resurrected. As John the Apostle explains later in Jn 20:11, at the time of the resurrection, the Apostles do not understand yet from the OT scripture that Messiah would resurrect from the dead. They later understand this was prophesied in the OT. John does recall that Jesus said he would resurrect from the dead and believes that Jesus has resurrected from the dead as he said he would.

In Gospels of Mark and Luke, it is clear the women see the empty tomb. They go to tell the disciples, and specifically Mary tells Peter and John, as recorded in John's Gospel. Peter and John then witness the empty tomb and return to their homes.

The proofs of the empty tomb to this point in the resurrection narrative are: the known location of the tomb; the frightened, bribed and now absent guards; the removed stone; the absent body; the present grave clothes; and the eyewitness of Mary Magdalene, the other women, Peter and John. Mary Magdalene remains at the tomb. She is the first eyewitness of the empty tomb, and she will be the first eyewitness of the resurrected Christ.

# **October 2019 Events & Activities**

For more information, please see our website, [www.matthewroad.org](http://www.matthewroad.org) or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

## **October 3rd:**

Young@Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am

## **October 4th:**

Student C2 Group, contact [ben@matthewroad.org](mailto:ben@matthewroad.org) for more info

## **October 6th:**

College Leaders Meeting, 12:15pm, CG

## **October 16th:**

Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15pm, Teller Room

## **October 18th - 19th:**

Men's Ministry Campout, contact [phil@matthewroad.org](mailto:phil@matthewroad.org) for more info

Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, must rsvp to [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)

## **October 20th:**

Newcomers Class & Luncheon, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall, more info on pg 2

Deacon Meeting, 4:00pm, Library

## **October 21st:**

Mom's & Mentors, 7:00pm, Library, contact [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com) for more info

## **October 26th:**

Women's Ministry Breakout Breakfast, 10:00am, Fellowship Hall, contact [rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org) for more info

College Ministry Fellowship, 4:00pm, CommonGrounds

## **October 31st:**

Fall Festival, 6:00pm, MRBC Campus, contact [brittanymrbc@gmail.com](mailto:brittanymrbc@gmail.com) for more info or to volunteer

## ***Regular Weekly Activities***

### **Sundays**

Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00 AM
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45 AM
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:00 PM
Evening Worship	6:15 PM

### **Mondays**

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45 AM
PAW Program	9:00 AM

### **Tuesdays**

MRA (during the school year)	8:30 AM
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45 AM

### **Wednesdays**

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45 AM
PAW Program	9:00 AM
Student Ministry (youth)	6:30 PM
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30 PM
AWANA Clubs (children)	6:30 PM
Adult Bible Studies	6:45 PM

### **Thursdays**

MRA (during school year)	8:30 AM
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### **Fridays**

Chick Time, at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00 AM
Women's Bible Study (FH)	11:00 AM

### **Saturdays**

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30 AM
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Fall Festival is coming!

Wednesday, October 31st

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Candy, new/gently used stuffed animal and volunteers needed!  
(watch for the orange collection tubs)

Go to  
[matthewroad.org/welcome-to-mrbc/](http://matthewroad.org/welcome-to-mrbc/)  
to find your perfect spot to serve.

### *Financials as of October 4, 2019*

Budget Income	\$ 743,966
Budget Expense	\$ (777,735)
Net Budget	\$ (33,769)