

seen the Lord. This appearance to Mary Magdalene is considered by many to be the first of our Lord's manifestations. The appendix of Mark 16 in verse 9 reads, "He appeared first to Mary Magdalene."

In verses 19 through 23 of this same chapter John gives us a record of the first manifestation of the risen Lord to the disciples in a body. This manifestation took place in Jerusalem on the evening of the resurrection day. We read that the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews. Then Jesus came and stood in their midst, and says, "Peace be unto you." The very same salutation of Jesus is given in Luke 24:36 where this same appearance is recorded. What a comforting salutation! The force of this greeting is deepened by the contrast with the "fear of the Jews" which has been mentioned immediately before. This salutation reminds us of the words spoken by Jesus recorded in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you." After greeting the disciples, "He shewed unto them His hands and His side." The effect of this manifestation upon the disciples was one of joy. They rejoiced when they saw Him. Jesus gives them a commission. "As the Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." He breathed on them, and says, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit." This gift of the Spirit was both present and future. As present, this blessing brought the quickening of spiritual life. As future, the promise included all that Pentecost gave.

On the occasion of the appearance of Jesus to the disciples just considered, Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not present. When the other disciples saw Thomas, they said to him, "We have seen the Lord." Thomas said, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." (verse 25)