

difference of opinion which has prevailed among scholars who have made attempts to harmonize the Gospel accounts of the resurrection. Some place the appearance to the women (Matthew 28:1-10) first; others suggest the appearance to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18) first. On the tradition preserved in the appendix of the Gospel of Mark (16:9) there is reason to place the appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene first among the appearances. Mark 16:9 reads, "Now when He was risen early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons." From this verse it is ~~evident~~ that the first appearance of Jesus after the resurrection was to Mary Magdalene. However, the details of this appearance are given in John 20:11-18.

What was the order of the appearances? In answering this question let us try to gather together the appearances of Jesus in order according to the New Testament accounts. First, the risen Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene at the sepulchre early on the resurrection day (John 20:11-18). Second, Jesus appeared to the women as they returned from the sepulchre, after having seen the angel who told them that the crucified Saviour was risen (Matthew 28:1-10). Third, to the apostle Peter Jesus appeared under circumstances of which we have no detailed account. This appearance must have taken place on the first day of the week, and before evening (Luke 24:34; I Corinthians 15:5). Fourth, the appearance to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus is fully described in Luke 24:13-35. This appearance took place, like the one to Peter, on the day of the resurrection, but later in the day. Fifth, on the evening of the resurrection day Jesus appeared to the ten apostles (Thomas being absent) and others "with them" (Luke 24:33), whose names are not given. (Luke 24:36-40; John 20:19-23; I Corinthians 15:5) Sixth, definitely later than the foregoing appearances is the appearance of Jesus to the eleven apostles, Thomas