Name: _____________________

The Meaning of the Resurrection

Directions: Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. Since the four gospel accounts of Jesus’ resurrection differ, it is important to read them through the eyes of ________________________

2. Some examples of where the gospel resurrection accounts differ are:
   A. The one who rolled away the stone from Jesus’ tomb in Matthew 28:2 was _____________________________________.
   B. But Mark 16:4, Luke 24:2, and John 20:1 do not ________________________________
   C. In Matthew 28:7-8, and John 20:1-2 Mary Magdalene does not enter the _________________.
   D. But in Mark 16:5 and Luke 24:3 Mary Magdalene enters the tomb along with _________________________.
   E. In Mark 16:1 Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, and Salome bring spices to anoint Jesus. But in Luke 24:10 Salome is replaced by _________________________________.
   F. In John 20:1, however, Mary Magdalene visits Jesus’ tomb with _________________________________.

3. So the point to remember is, in the resurrection accounts, we cannot read the gospels only literally, we must rely on _________________________.

4. If Jesus’ body physically left the tomb, this was because he had been ________________________________. (see Mt 28:6 and Lk 24:6)

5. In other words, Jesus did not awake from the dead, roll back the stone, and walk out of the tomb under his own power. This was done to him by _________________________________.

6. However, John 20:9 seems to imply that Jesus himself _____________________________________.

7. Now if nothing at all happened on that first Easter morning, why would the fearful disciples (see John 20:19) of that evening turn into brave and forthright speakers (Acts 2:14-41) only a short time later, on the feast of _________________________________.

8. If there were no empty tomb, no “appearances” of Jesus after his death, none of the disciples would have become convinced of his _________________________________. (Acts 2:24, 31)

9. On the other hand, if Jesus had walked the streets of Jerusalem for forty days after his resurrection, no Pharisee could possibly have doubted that Jesus _________________________________.

10. The only ones who “saw” the risen Jesus were his _________________________________.

11. What did they see? If they saw the actual body of Jesus come back to life, why did Mary Magdalene in John 20:15 not _________________________________?
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12. If Jesus’ body after the resurrection was similar to his body during life, how could he enter a room that had ______________________________? (Jn 20:19)

13. But if the resurrection appearances were just hallucinations or imaginings, then how could Thomas put __________________________________? (Jn 20:27)

14. Something must have happened for the disciples to become convinced Jesus was still alive after his ______________________________.

15. But what? If his physical body resumed human life again after his death on the cross, then no one in Jerusalem at that time could possibly have __________________________________.

16. But the Pharisees and many others in Jerusalem at that time did doubt the ______________________________.

17. So what really did happen? Mary Magdalene apparently came to some sort of realization that Jesus lived after she visited his ______________________________.

18. In Luke 24:30-31 two disciples recognize the risen Jesus when they are at table and __________________________________________.

19. In John 20:19 Jesus comes through locked doors to visit the fearful disciples. In this way Jesus acts out Matthew 18:20, which says:

______________________________________________________________________________________

20. In Matthew 28:16-20 after his resurrection, Jesus meets the eleven disciples at __________________________________________.

21. So what can we conclude from all of this? Obviously the early followers of Jesus believed that after he died, Jesus ______________________________.

22. One of the basic beliefs of the Christian religion is that Jesus rose from the dead. Or in other words, even after he died physically on the cross, Jesus still ______________________________.

23. Jesus’ death and resurrection prove that love is stronger and more durable than ______________________________.