

Risen!

Christ's resurrection assures believers of salvation.

MATTHEW 28:1-10,16-20



...SAL
...wake
...ch him.
...s togeth-
...also ye do.

...YOURSELVES
...brethren,¹⁶ to know
...g you, and are over
...dmonish you;
...them very highly in
...s sake.¹⁷ And be at peace
...s.

...nort you, brethren,¹⁸ warn
...unruly,¹⁹ comfort the feeble-
...support the weak,²⁰ be patient
...men.

...e that none render evil for evil unto
...an; but ever²¹ follow that which is
...both among yourselves, and to all
...n.

...¹⁶ Rejoice evermore.
...¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.
...¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this
...is the will of God in Christ Jesus concern-
...ing you.
...thers;¹⁹ Quench not the Spirit.
...²⁰ Despise not prophesyings.
...ne night;
...drunken in
...is good.
...²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.

FINAL EXHORTATIONS
...²³ And²⁴ the very God of peace²⁵ sanctify
...you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit
...and soul and body²⁶ be preserved blameless
...unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

...¹⁴ ¹⁵ ¹⁶ ¹⁷ ¹⁸ ¹⁹ ²⁰ ²¹ ²² ²³ ²⁴ ²⁵ ²⁶

07

...coming are caught up (Gk. har-
...e clouds to meet the Lord in the
...erm "rapture" is derived from rap-
...in the modern state of Israel. Just before
...the day of the Lord when people think they
...have this peace, sudden destruction will
...Christians will be kept out
...hour of testing (Rev. 3:10)
...5:10 See note at vv. 4-8.

If you were a contestant on a game show, to whom would you reach out if allowed to get assistance with one question? What are your reasons for selecting that person?

The more firsthand knowledge the person has, the greater the confidence and trust. When we consider resurrection of Jesus, we find confidence in knowing that the biblical accounts reflect firsthand knowledge.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

The chapters immediately leading up to Matthew 28 are filled with distressing news. Matthew 27:3 reveals that Jesus was betrayed by Judas. Judas had seen the miracles of Christ. He had firsthand knowledge of Jesus walking on water, feeding the masses, and healing the sick. Yet, Judas had set all this aside for thirty pieces of silver in pursuit of his own personal agenda.

The story continues with the rejection of Jesus. Pilate, who was the governor of that region during this time, knew Jesus to be innocent of the charges and appealed to the crowd for action. It was Pilate's intention to release Jesus. One would think the story would improve here since Jesus had faithfully served and ministered to some in this crowd over the past three years. Instead, the story continues down a troubling path as the crowd opted for the release of a common criminal.

Jesus then was openly mocked. The Roman soldiers mocked Jesus by putting a crown of thorns on His head and dressing Him in purple to symbolize royalty. They then

proceeded to beat Him and spit on Him. While Jesus hung on the cross, the elders and scribes encircled Him and challenged Him to save Himself. They indicated that if He would simply come down from the cross, then they too would believe in Him.

A centurion—a Roman soldier—was at the cross of Jesus and observed all that took place. Upon the death of Jesus the centurion said, “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Matt. 27:54). Jesus died and was placed in a tomb. The distress found in the events leading up to this point was about to be reversed.

MATTHEW 28:1-10, 16-20

1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and **the other Mary**^A went to view the tomb. **2** There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. **4** The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they became like dead men. **5** The angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.’ Listen, I have told you.” **8** So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell his disciples the news. **9** Just then Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” They came up, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus told them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and **they will see me there**^B” [...] **16** The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the **mountain**^C where Jesus had directed them. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. **18** Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go, therefore, and **make disciples**^D of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**^E, **20** teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Passage Outline

Resurrected
(Matt. 28:1-4)

Announced
(Matt. 28:5-7)

Encountered
(Matt. 28:8-10)

Commissioned
(Matt. 28:16-20)

Key Words

- A. The wife of Clopas (or Alphaeus). She stood by the cross (John 19:25), sat desolate at the tomb with Mary Magdalene (Mark 15:47), and was there again with spices (Mark 16:1; Luke 23:56).
- B. Jesus promised He would be reunited with His disciples in Galilee after His resurrection (Matt. 26:32).
- C. The mountain was the place of Jesus’s revelation (Matt. 5:1; 8:1; 17:1,9; 24:3) and ministry (15:29). Here it is where Jesus commissioned His disciples.
- D. The eleven were now to begin discipling disciples.
- E. The fullness of the Trinity is illustrated in these instructions for baptism.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body. What they experienced that morning changed them forever. They walked away with a firsthand account of an empty tomb, having seen a messenger of God and witnessing the response of the Roman soldiers. All of these events only added to the assurance of the resurrection of the Savior.

How do the details given instill assurance that Jesus was resurrected?

BIBLE SKILL: Use a Bible dictionary to gain insight. Read an article from a Bible dictionary on resurrection. Note the various occurrence of a person being brought back to life and how those experiences are different from what happened to Jesus. Focus on the difference between resuscitation and resurrection. Write a summary of what you discover.

The angel of the Lord offered to the women a message of assurance: they did not need to be afraid. The angel confirmed the resurrection in two ways. First, he reminded the women that Jesus had told them about His resurrection. Second, the angel invited them to *see the place where he lay*. The angel concluded by telling the woman what to do, how to do it, and what to say.

Why was it important for the women to act with urgency in delivering the news of the resurrection? Should that same urgency be felt today? Explain.

KEY DOCTRINE: Jesus. Jesus was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion (See Luke 24:46, John 20:27.)

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were obedient to the angel's command. As they went, they experienced a mixture of emotions. On one hand they were filled with fear. On the other hand, they experienced great joy. This combination of fear and joy suggests they knew something wonderful had happened and that things would never be the same.

How was the encounter with Jesus critical for the women? How does an encounter with Jesus change a person's view of Him?

The disciples traveled to the specific mountain in Galilee, where they had an encounter with the risen Lord. Some of those present responded more slowly, while others quickly believed.

What might cause a person to doubt the resurrection despite the eyewitness accounts?

We know from the New Testament that the disciples faithfully fulfilled the command to go and make disciples. Their obedience attests to the truth of the resurrection.

APPLY THE TEXT

- The empty tomb attests to Jesus' resurrection.
- The angel declared Jesus' resurrection.
- Eyewitness accounts affirm the resurrection of Jesus.
- The spread of the gospel demonstrates the truth of the resurrection of Jesus.

List people you know that have objections to the resurrection of Jesus or have been unwilling to accept Him. What can you share with them from today's study that may help them take a step toward Jesus?

Reflect on Matthew 28:6. Imagine different ways the statements could be said, and the emotion carried in each statement. Memorize the verse this week, repeating it every morning after you awake.

Discuss as a group the role your group has in helping your church accomplish the different elements of the Great Commission. What actions can your Bible study group take this week that would lead to faithfully living out this command?

Prayer Requests



DAILY EXPLORATION

Day 1: Jesus was resurrected.

Read Matthew 28:1-4, highlighting specific details of the experience.

A firsthand account provides irrefutable assurance. *Mary Magdalene and the other Mary* went to the tomb of Jesus as dawn approached that first Easter morning. The Gospel of Mark indicates that their purpose was to anoint Jesus's body with the spices they had purchased (Mark 16:1). Neither were content with allowing the other to view the tomb and then taking her word for it. Matthew recorded *there was a violent earthquake*, caused by *an angel of the Lord*. Angels are heavenly messengers, and this angel had a specific task to perform. He approached the tomb and rolled back the stone that was covering its entrance. Along with removing the stone, the angel also took care of the soldiers guarding the tomb. The word *shaken* means to be in a state of trembling or to quiver without control. This was no small experience. Matthew went on to say that the guards' trembling was caused by fear. The word Matthew used here indicated an extreme state of distress. These same soldiers would later be bribed to tell a different story, knowing they were lying every time they retold it (Matt. 28:11-15).

How do the details given instill assurance in you that Jesus was resurrected?

Day 2: There is urgency in sharing the gospel.

Read Matthew 28:5-7, underlining verse 7.

Fear is a natural response when we encounter something we do not understand or do not expect. The women wanted to anoint the body of a loved one who was brutally crucified, and now they had an angel engaging them in conversation. We should not fault them for being fearful. The women knew that Joseph and Nicodemus had put the body in the grave on Friday night. The angel's offer to let them see where He lay verified that they were at the correct tomb. Now, they had the opportunity to see that it was empty. While Matthew did not say they looked into the tomb, it is reasonable to assume they did, making them the first eyewitnesses to the resurrection. The angel told them to *go* and *tell*. *Go* indicates an ongoing action as opposed to a one-time event. He also wanted them to *go quickly*. Finally, he told them the message they needed to proclaim. In addition to the news of the resurrection, the disciples needed to know that Jesus was *going ahead* of them to *Galilee*. During Passover, Jesus had said He would meet them in Galilee (Matt. 26:32). He wanted the women to remind them of this. They would see Jesus there and would receive His marching orders.

Why was it important for the women to act with urgency in delivering the message of Jesus's resurrection? Do you feel that same urgency today? Explain.

Day 3: We can find purpose in living according to God's Word.

Read Matthew 28:8-10, identifying the womens' response to seeing Jesus.

As Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went along the way, *Jesus met them*. They responded in two ways. First, they *took hold of his feet*. This was a common act of submission in the first century. Second, they *worshiped him*. We are not afforded the opportunity to physically bow at the feet of Jesus and worship Him. We are, however, afforded the chance to bow our hearts before Him. We are afforded the opportunity to acknowledge that He is risen. We are afforded the opportunity to obey His commands and to experience great joy as a result. Their encounter led to purpose. Jesus commanded the women to *go and tell* the disciples the good news that He was alive. Many of us long for purpose. We want to do things that have meaning. Purpose and meaning can be found in living according to the truth God gives us in His Word.

How was the encounter with Jesus critical for the women?

How has an encounter with Jesus changed your view of Him?

Day 4: We can have assurance in the resurrection.

Read Matthew 28:16-17, considering the varied responses to seeing Jesus.

The disciples traveled to the specific *mountain* in *Galilee*, where they had an encounter with the risen Lord. There, they *worshiped* Him, as the women had done earlier. *Some*, though, *doubted*. The Greek word refers to wavering or having a divided mind. The idea is more like hesitation or confusion than skepticism. Some of those present responded more slowly, while others quickly believed.

What might cause a person to doubt the resurrection despite the eyewitness accounts?

Day 5: Go and make disciples.

Read Matthew 28:18-20, noting the command given.

In this passage, Jesus gave a specific command that is to be fulfilled by all His followers throughout all ages. He left us with a promise. The primary command is to *make disciples*. A disciple is one who seeks to actively and consistently follow the teaching of another. Jesus wants us to know Him personally and follow His teachings and to help others do the same. These disciples would come from *all nations*. Everyone needs the gospel, and everyone should be given the chance to respond to it. We make disciples by going, *baptizing*, and *teaching*. Going indicates a continual action or lifestyle. As we go to work, school, and throughout our daily activities, we are to make disciples. Baptizing and teaching further indicate the necessary steps involved in fulfilling His command. Jesus offered the promise to be with us *always, to the end of the age*. While circumstances can make us feel alone, Jesus promises that we will never be alone.

In what ways does Christ's promise to always be with His disciples give you confidence?

TALK IT OUT

Reflect on the truths found in Matthew 28, sharing with the other members of your Bible study group.

Compare Matthew's account of the resurrection in these verses to the other Gospels (Mark 16:1-5; Luke 24:1-4; John 20:1-2). Based on similarities in the texts, what conclusions emerge?

Why is worship an appropriate response whenever we encounter the Lord?

How do verses 16-20 define discipleship?

