



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King is Risen!**

**Matthew 28:1-17**

Message #79 of 80 – S1120

**Sermon given on September 22, 2024**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The King is Risen!

*Matthew 28:1-17*

## Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 28**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The King is Risen!**
- One of the less pleasant duties of a pastor is to officiate at memorials and funerals.
- One of the things you do during a memorial service is attempt to summarize their life down to about twenty minutes.
- And then other people share and in about an hour and a half you are done.
- People go back to their lives.
- Those closest to the person who died process their grief in their own way.
- The world keeps spinning and life for everyone else goes on.
- In the previous chapter Jesus was tried, beaten, crucified, died, and was buried.
- He was hurriedly thrown into a tomb with hardly anyone noticing.
- In the eyes of the world, Jesus' story was over.
- In reality, it was the end of a chapter in the book of God's plan of redemption.
- Chapter 28 begins the rest of the story.
- **Matthew 28:1**
- Jesus died on Friday afternoon, about three o'clock.
- It was just a few short hours before the sun went down and the Sabbath began.
- The Sabbath was instituted as a day of rest for the Jews.
- It begins at sunset on Friday evening and ends at sunset on Saturday evening.

- According to the Jewish calendar, Sunday is the first day of the week.
- It would later become known as the Lord's Day and the early church chose to gather for worship then.
- That is why we hold our services on Sundays.
- Luke's gospel tells us the women were bringing spices to prepare Jesus' body for burial.
- They were going to complete the process that had to be shortened because the Sabbath was beginning.
- Mark's gospel says that they were discussing among themselves who was going to roll the stone away because it was 'very large'.
- They would soon learn that there is no obstacle God can't remove so people can come to Jesus.
- **Matthew 28:2-3**
- The stone was not rolled back to let Jesus out but to let the women in so that they could see that Jesus was risen from the dead.
- 'countenance' = probably face.
- 'like lightning' – the word like tells us that they were seeing something that wasn't natural.
- The closest thing to something they understood was lightning.
- The women are not the only witnesses to this supernatural event.
- **Matthew 28:4**
- The guards fainted from fear.
- These same guards may have been a part of the contingent that was sent to arrest Jesus.
- They probably witnessed the three hours of darkness that preceded Christ's death.
- They felt the earthquake and heard about the veil being torn in the temple.
- It is not hard to imagine that these guys are little freaked out by everything that happened around Jesus.
- The angel has a message for the ladies.
- **Matthew 28:5-6**
- It is interesting to me that the guards fainted but the women did not.
- This is the difference faith makes in our lives.

- They believed in Jesus.
- They were open to spiritual things of God.
- They were afraid and rightly so because an angel of God is terrifying to behold.
- The angel calls Jesus Lord.
- It is highly unlikely that an angel would call any human Lord.
- This is a declaration of Christ's deity.
- The resurrection of Christ is the keystone to the Christian faith.
- It proves that Jesus was who He said He was – He is the Son of God (**Romans 1:3-4**).

... concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

- The resurrection amplified the meaning of Christ's death and made possible the belief that we can be forgiven for sin and be right with God.
- The resurrection gives people hope in the gospel, because without the hope of the resurrection we cannot have the hope of heaven (**1 Peter 1:3-5**).

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

- 'He is risen, as He said' – Jesus had told them on many occasions that He would be raised from the dead (**Luke 24:7**).

**'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'**

- But now that Jesus died as He said He would, they are acting like He won't be raised on the third day as He said He would.
- These women are wasting their time trying to prepare the risen Christ's body for death.
- When God tells us something, we must believe it.
- God always does what He says.
- A lot of believers are wasting their time on things God has spoken to them about and they have chosen not to believe. **Ivor Powell**

**"If you forget His promises, you may spend years seeking satisfaction in the wrong places."**

- Know God's Word – believe God's Word – obey God's Word – share God's Word.
- 'Come, see...' – Imagine the scene.
- The women come with their spices and ointments to prepare Jesus' body.
- When they get there, an angel, dazzlingly bright, shows up and rolls the impossibly heavy stone out of the way and an earthquake happens.
- The guards all fall down like dead men.
- I can understand why the angel would tell them not to be afraid.
- But all these things happened to accomplish a single thing, 'come, see...'
- They needed to see with their own eyes that Jesus was raised from the dead.

• Faith is important (**Hebrews 11:6**).

**But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

- But sometimes faith is not enough to get us to where God is drawing us to.
- Sometimes we need more than trusting God and believing His Word.
- Sometimes we need something outside of us to help us.
- Moses, when he was struggling with his faith, asked God to show him His glory.
- Sometimes we need to cry out to God like that father of the child who had a demon (**Mark 9:23-24**).

**Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are possible to him who believes.*"** <sup>24</sup> **Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"**

- Cry out to God and you keep doing it until God answers you.
- All the while doing your best to believe and obey.
- **Matthew 28:7-10**
- It is worthy of note that the first people commanded to proclaim the resurrection were women.
- 'Rejoice' – Jesus joins them in and encourages their joy at His resurrection.
- 'held Him by the feet' = This was an act of reverence of Christ as sovereign and submission to Him as Lord.

- Now, not only would they tell the disciples about the events at the tomb and that Jesus was risen from the dead, but they could also say they had seen Him and even touched Him.
- Jesus repeats the command to go and tell the disciples that Jesus is risen from the dead.
- Meanwhile, the guards wake up and realize they have a problem.
- **Matthew 28:11-15**
- If these were temple guards, it is one thing, but if they were Roman soldiers, it could be a capital offence to lose a prisoner, even if he was already dead.
- ‘until this day’ – Matthew’s gospel was written between 60 and 65 AD – for thirty years they kept telling the lie that the disciples had stolen the body of Christ.
- The resurrection of Christ is such an important part of the gospel that the enemies of Christ will do anything they can to discredit it.
- The things that people believe today are remarkable.
- People will believe what they want to believe to justify their desires and will.
- To justify abortion, people have convinced themselves that a baby in the womb is just a clump of cells.
- Or say that a fetus is not a human life.
- The definition of a fetus is an unborn offspring.
- But to justify abortion, you must choose not to believe it is a human being that is being killed.
- Wherever you land on that issue, God offers forgiveness and healing.
- People will choose to believe that a man can become a woman – that someone just believing it hard enough will make it true.
- Believing can never be the basis for truth.
- Truth must be the basis of belief or else what you believe is not true.
- The disciples would eventually go to Galilee.
- **Matthew 28:16-17**
- ‘some doubted’ – The resurrection of Jesus Christ was not a case of mass hysteria, or a cult indoctrination.
- People had to be convinced that Jesus was alive.

- Thomas was told to touch the wounds on Jesus' body so that he would believe.
- Is doubt sin? No, not if it drives you to seek God more deeply.
- Doubt is the natural struggling to make sense of supernatural things.
- Doubt that is sin is doubt that leads to unbelief.
- I used to be one of those people who said if you can't prove it I won't believe it.
- That was foolish and ignorant.
- If God was finite enough for me to prove than He wouldn't be infinite enough to be God.
- The same is true about many things in our faith.
- Forgiveness is a good example of that.
- The Bible says that we are forgiven when we put our trust in the finished work of Christ.
- How do you know you are forgiven? By faith!
- I believe it because the Word of God says it!
- You might also feel it or sense that it is true.
- Sometimes forgiveness comes with a sense of freedom.
- But you can't prove to me that you are forgiven – But I believe it!
- I cannot prove that Jesus was raised from the dead, but there is more than enough evidence for me to believe it.
- Virtually every book of the New Testament refers to the resurrection.
- If it isn't true, then none of the Bible is true and we are still lost in our sin.
- It is true! The evidence is not just in the Bible.
- It is in every soul that has been transformed by the gospel.
- Jesus died so that we could be forgiven for our sins.
- He was raised so that we could confidently proclaim our hope of heaven.
- He is risen, and I will be raised too!
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us be messengers of the resurrection!
- **Pray! Last Song!**