

Matthew 28

Scriptures:

Notes:

In the previous chapter Jesus was tried, beaten, crucified, died, and was buried. 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.

Title ideas:
The King is Risen!

Matthew 28:1-17 - The King is Risen!

Scriptures:

¹ Now after the Sabbath, as the first ⁵ day of

G4521 – “Sabbath n. —
a day of rest and
worship at the end of
the seven day week
cycle; lasting from
Friday evening until
Saturday evening.”

G1520 -

the week began to dawn,

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to

see the ² tomb.

Notes:

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 then. That is why we hold our services on Sundays.

Luke's gospel tells us they 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 that God can't remove so that people can come to Jesus.

Scriptures:

² And behold, there was a great earthquake;

Notes:

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.

for an ^Aangel of the ^ALord descended from

heaven, and came and rolled back the

G617 -

stone from the door, and sat on it.

Scriptures:

³ ^AHis countenance was like lightning, and ^Ahis

G3588 –
appearance.

Word study

Notes:

'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.

clothing as white as snow.

Scriptures:

4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and

became like dead *men*.

G3498 -

Notes:

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.

Scriptures:

5 But the angel answered and said to the

women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you

seek Jesus who was crucified.

Notes:

Why didn't the women faint with fear. 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.

Scriptures:

Romans 1:3-4 -

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

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, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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.'

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.

Mark 9:23-24 - Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.

G1453 -
resurrected.

Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

G2962 -
supernatural
master over all.

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). Cry out to God and you keep doing it until God answers you. All the while doing your best to believe and obey.

Notes:

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). 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).

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

When God tells us something, we must believe it. God always does what He says. These women are wasting their time trying to prepare the risen Christ's body for death. A lot of believers are wasting their time on things God has spoken to them about and they have chosen not to believe.

"If you forget His promises, you may spend years seeking satisfaction in the wrong places." Ivor Powell – Page 516

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).

Scriptures:

7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He

Notes:
It is worthy of note that the first people commanded to proclaim the resurrection were women.

is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going

before you into Galilee; there you will see

Him. Behold, I have told you.”

Scriptures:

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with Notes:

fear and great joy, and ran to bring His

G5401 -

G5479 – gladness,
happiness.

12 disciples word.

Scriptures:

⁹ And as they went to tell His disciples,

behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So

G5463 – be glad.

they came and held Him by the feet and

worshiped Him.

G4352 -

Notes:

John's gospel tells us that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene who stayed behind at the tomb.

'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.

Scriptures:

10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.

Notes:
'Do not be afraid.' Jesus discourages them from fear.

Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and

there they will see Me."

11 Now while they [♀]were going, behold, some

of the guard ^Gcame into the city and reported

to the chief ^{CP}priests all the things that had

happened.

Scriptures:

12 When they had assembled with the elders

Notes:

and consulted together, they gave a large

sum of money to the soldiers,

Scriptures:

13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at

Notes:

This is a ridiculous story. There is no way on earth that the disciples could have moved that stone without waking the soldiers. Even I don't sleep that soundly.

night and stole Him away while we slept.'

Scriptures:

14 And if this comes to the governor's ears,

Notes:

It is fascinating that people would actually believe this story. If they knew the disciples they would know they probably couldn't have pulled it off even if they had wanted to.

^{CP} we will appease him and make ^G you secure.”

G3982 – persuade.

G275 – without worry or concern.

Scriptures:

15 So ^G they took the [#] money and did as they ^G

Notes:

'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.

were instructed; and this saying

The things that people believe today is 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.

is commonly reported among the Jews until

G1310 – to spread by word of mouth widely.

this ^G day.

Scriptures:

16 Then the eleven ⁽¹²⁾disciples went away into

Notes:

Galilee, to the mountain which ^{nt}Jesus had

appointed for them. ⁽¹²⁾

Scriptures:

17 When they saw Him, they ⁽¹²⁾worshipped Him; ^{nt} ⁽¹²⁾ ^{nt} ^{nt}

but some doubted.

G1365 -

Notes:

'some doubted' – This 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.

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!

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