

OUR TASK

Because Jesus rose from the grave, we are to take the Gospel to all people.

Matthew 28:1–10, 16–20

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

The resurrection of Jesus is everything to our faith.

It's not just an important moment, it's the center of the entire Bible. From beginning to end, both the Old Testament and the New Testament point to Jesus—His death and His resurrection.

The gospel (the good news) only works because Jesus didn't stay dead.

If Jesus had not risen, then His death on the cross wouldn't have accomplished anything. But because He rose, we know sin was paid for and salvation is real.

The resurrection is God's way of saying: **“What Jesus did on the cross worked.”**

But the resurrection isn't just something we believe, it's something that actually happened. In real life, one of the strongest forms of evidence is eyewitness testimony, people who saw something with their own eyes.

That's exactly what the Gospel writers point to.

In Matthew 28, we see multiple eyewitnesses:

- Mary Magdalene
- Another woman named Mary
- And later, the eleven disciples who saw Jesus in Galilee

These weren't random stories, these were real people who saw the risen Jesus. To fully understand what's happening, we also have to look at what happened right before this in Matthew 27.

The religious leaders remembered that Jesus had said He would rise from the dead. So they went to Pilate and asked for guards to be placed at the tomb to make sure no one could steal His body.

So Roman soldiers were stationed there to guard it, but when the angel appeared and the stone was rolled away, the guards were so terrified that they fainted. Later, those same guards reported everything that happened to the chief priests. Instead of accepting the truth, the leaders paid them off.

They told the guards to spread a lie, that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body from the tomb.

Matthew even says that this false story was still being spread years later in an attempt to deny what really happened.

But the truth remains:

The tomb was empty
Jesus is alive
And that changes everything

The resurrection is not just part of Christianity...**it is the foundation of it.**

EXPLORE THE TEXT

Here are some key words and phrases that shape this passage:

“Great earthquake” (v. 2)

This wasn't quiet or subtle. God was making a statement. The resurrection shook the earth because it changed everything.

“Do not be afraid” (v. 5, 10)

Fear was the natural response, but the angel and Jesus both say the same thing: You don't have to live in fear anymore because Jesus is alive.

“He has risen” (v. 6)

This is the foundation of Christianity. If Jesus didn't rise, nothing else matters (1 Corinthians 15:17). But He did and that changes everything.

“Go quickly and tell” (v. 7)

The first response to the resurrection is action. The Gospel is not meant to stay with you, it's meant to move through you.

“Worshiped Him... but some doubted” (v. 17)

Even in the presence of Jesus, some struggled. This reminds us: Faith doesn't mean you never wrestle, it means you still follow.

“All authority... has been given to me” (v. 18)

Jesus isn't just alive, He's in charge. Our mission is backed by His authority.

“Go therefore and make disciples” (v. 19)

This is the mission. Not just converts. Not just church attendance. Disciples, people who follow Jesus with their whole lives.

“I am with you always” (v. 20)

You are never alone in this mission. Jesus doesn't just send you, He goes with you.

DAY 1 — Matthew 28:1–4 - “When everything shook”

Compare verse 2 with Matthew 27:51.

When Jesus died, the earth shook.

When Jesus rose, the earth shook again.

These weren't quiet moments, these were **real events witnessed by real people**.

That morning, several eyewitnesses were there:

- The women (Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, and Salome)
- The Roman guards
- The angel

The women weren't expecting a miracle. They came to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. But as they approached the tomb, everything changed.

A violent earthquake hit. An angel showed up and rolled the stone away, not to let Jesus out, but to show that He was already gone.

The tomb was empty.

The guards? These trained soldiers were so overwhelmed that they collapsed in fear. The same word used for “shaken” is tied to “earthquake.”

The ground shook... and so did they.

They became eyewitnesses to the resurrection but later had to be paid to lie about it (Matthew 28:11–15).

Application: What convinces you that the resurrection is real?

Challenge: Read this passage again slowly and picture yourself there.

DAY 2 — Matthew 28:5–7 - “Look for yourself”

Compare verse 5 with Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:30, and Luke 2:10.

Every time God shows up, people are told the same thing: “Do not be afraid.”

The women were terrified but the angel didn’t just calm them down. He gave them evidence. “He is not here... see the place where he lay.”

In other words: **Look. See it for yourself.**

The angel reminded them that Jesus had already said this would happen (Matthew 17:22–23).

Then he gave them a mission: “Go quickly and tell his disciples.”

They weren’t just observers, they were now messengers. And notice this: Jesus told them to meet Him in Galilee.

Why Galilee?

Maybe because it was a place full of different kinds of people, Jews and Gentiles. That’s a preview of the mission: **the Gospel is for everyone.**

Applicatio: Do you think people today are still looking for Jesus in the wrong places?

Challenge: Ask yourself: *Where am I looking for meaning or hope instead of looking to Jesus?*

DAY 3 — Matthew 28:8–10 - “They saw Him”

Highlight: “**worshiped him**”

The women left the tomb quickly, just like the angel said.

And they were feeling two things at once:

Fear

Great joy

Why? Because they had just witnessed something supernatural.

Then suddenly, Jesus shows up. He simply says, “Greetings.”

Imagine that moment. The One they saw die... is now standing in front of them.

Alive.

Their response?

They grabbed His feet

They worshiped Him

This wasn't symbolic. This was physical. They touched Him. They saw Him.

They were eyewitnesses.

Jesus tells them again: “Do not be afraid... go and tell my brothers.”

Don't miss that word...**brothers**.

Jesus is restoring, encouraging, and preparing them for what's next.

Application: What part of the resurrection story makes you stop and worship?

Challenge: Take a few minutes today to just focus on Jesus—not what He can do for you, but who He is.

DAY 4 — Matthew 28:16–17 - “Worship or doubt?”

Highlight the two responses:

“They worshiped him”

“but some doubted”

When the disciples saw Jesus, they responded in two ways. Some worshiped. Some doubted.

And here’s the crazy part, these were eyewitnesses.

Some scholars believe this could have included a large group (possibly the 500 mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:6).

Some may have been seeing the risen Jesus for the first time and didn’t know how to process it. The word “doubted” means to hesitate.

They weren’t rejecting Jesus, they were trying to understand what they were seeing. But even in that moment...Worship still happened.

Application: Are you more of a worshiper or someone who hesitates and struggles with doubt?

Challenge: Be honest with God this week. If you have doubts, bring them to Him but don’t stop showing up.

DAY 5 — Matthew 28:18–20 - “This is your mission”

Identify the command: “make disciples”

Jesus comes near and speaks with authority. Not just any authority, **all authority**.

Then He gives the mission:

As you are going...

Make disciples

Of all nations

This isn't just about going somewhere far away. It's about how you live **every day**, at school, with friends, on your team.

Making disciples involves two things:

1. **Baptizing** — showing you belong to Jesus
2. **Teaching** — helping people follow Jesus

And here's the best part: "I am with you always."

You are not doing this alone. The same Jesus who rose from the dead is with you as you live on mission.

Application: What does this mission demand from your life right now?

Challenge: Write down 2–3 people in your life who need Jesus. Pray for them every day this week and look for a moment to share.

CLOSING THOUGHT

The resurrection isn't just something people believed...

It's something they saw.

It's something they shared.

And now—it's something we live out.

This is our task.