

Week of Monday, March 30, 2026

Matthew 28:1-15

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary 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.” 11 As they were on their way, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 After the priests had assembled with the elders and agreed on a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money 13 and told them, “Say this, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him while we were sleeping.’ 14 If this reaches the governor’s ears, we will deal with him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 They took the money and did as they were instructed, and this story has been spread among Jewish people to this day.

HOPE Journaling

H – Highlight what stands out to you

O – Observe what it teaches

P – Practice this in your life

E – Express this in your prayers

Weekly Devotional

As we approach Easter Sunday, I want to draw our attention to a single verse in Matthew's Gospel. It is one simple sentence—yet it carries a significance far greater than the few words it contains: *“He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay”* (Matthew 28:6). Within this brief announcement, we are given three profound truths that stand at the very heart of the Christian faith.

“He is not here.” The tomb is empty. The body of Jesus is not where it was laid. What began as a morning marked by grief and the finality of death is suddenly interrupted by the shocking declaration that death didn't have the final word. This is what we call the good news. The story of Jesus does not end in His burial. His grave is not the end.

“For he has risen, just as he said.” The reason the tomb is empty makes all the difference. Jesus has risen from the dead—and this was not unexpected. It was promised. Again and again, Jesus told His disciples that He would suffer, die, and rise on the third day. The resurrection is not only a miracle; it is the fulfillment of His word. It confirms that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be. And His victory over death validates every promise He made and secures the hope of all who trust in Him.

“Come and see the place where he lay.” This is an invitation. The angel does not call for blind belief, but for honest consideration. Come and see. Examine the evidence. Consider what has taken place. The resurrection is not presented as myth or legend, but as reality—something to be encountered and responded to. And this is where Matthew directs our attention next. You see, not everyone responds the same way.

The women who came to the tomb are filled with fear and great joy. They run to tell the disciples, and soon they encounter the risen Christ Himself. When they see Him, they fall at His feet and worship Him.

But there were other witnesses there that morning. The guards also experienced the events of that morning. They go into the city and report what has happened. Yet instead of following the truth where it leads, they accept money to spread a lie and suppress what they know to be true.

The priests hear the news as well. They receive the report from the guards. However, rather than investigate or consider the possibility that Jesus has truly risen, they quickly construct a story to explain it away. They hear the truth, and they choose to reject it.

Three groups. One empty tomb. Three very different responses. And now the question comes to us: How will you respond?

Easter is not merely a tradition to observe—it is a truth that confronts us. The risen Christ is not simply to be acknowledged, but to be worshiped. Will we respond with humble faith and joyful surrender? Or will we, like so many in Matthew's account and in our world today, find ways to dismiss, ignore, or suppress what we know to be true?

This Easter, hear again the words of the angel: He is not here. He has risen. Come and see. And respond in worship!

-Devotional written by Jason McDonald

Read Also:

Matthew 26:1–16 / The Plot and the Anointing

Matthew 26:17–35 / The Last Supper

Matthew 26:36–46 / Gethsemane

Matthew 26:47–56 / Betrayal and Arrest

Matthew 26:57–75 / The Trial and Denial

Matthew 27:1–56 / The Crucifixion

Matthew 27:57–66 / The Silent Tomb

Matthew 28:1–15 / He Is Risen

Group Discussion Questions

In Matthew 28:1–10, the women respond with both fear and great joy. Why do you think both emotions are present, and what does that teach us about a right response to the resurrection?

The angel says, “He is not here... he has risen... come and see.” Which part of that statement stands out most to you right now—and why?

Compare the responses of the women, the guards, and the religious leaders. What do these different responses reveal about the human heart when confronted with truth?

The guards knew what happened but chose to participate in spreading a false story. What are some ways people today suppress or avoid the truth about Jesus—even when they sense it’s real?

The women move from seeing → believing → worshiping → going and telling. Where would you say you are in that progression right now? What would it look like to take one step forward?

The religious leaders didn’t even investigate the resurrection—they quickly dismissed it. What are some subtle ways people might dismiss or minimize the resurrection in their daily lives, even as Christians?

Matthew presents the resurrection as something that demands a response. How should the reality that “He is risen” practically shape your priorities, fears, or decisions this week?