

Jesus: No Spin Matthew Chapter Twenty Eight: He Has Risen!

personal / group study for use with the message of April 11th and 12th, 2009, Easter Weekend

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him." Now I have told you" (Matthew 28:6-7).

In fulfillment of numerous prophecies, Jesus rose from the dead! The women (who in the Jewish culture of the day were not considered trustworthy witnesses and their testimony was not allowed in courts of law) found the empty tomb.

"Jesus Himself appeared to the women. Then Jesus appears to the eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee, and gives to them the "Great Commission"—the charge to carry His name and His teaching to all the nations of the world, until the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20). This resurrection account becomes for Matthew the final great miracle of Jesus, the final "proof" as it were, that He was who He claimed to be, the Son of God, the Son of David, the Savior of sinners." – Bob Shirock

Introduction.

Matthew leaves out some appearances of Christ that are in the other gospels. Matthew's emphasis is on the attempt of the Jewish leaders to cover up the resurrection. Matthew's other emphasis is upon the final command of Jesus to make Him known throughout the world.

Read.

Matthew 28

The Resurrection

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Guards' Report

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

The Great Commission

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.*

Questions.

ThinkAboutIt...

1. Verse 8 says, that the women were "afraid yet filled with joy ". Has God ever done anything that has caused you to be afraid yet filled with joy?
2. Verse 17 says that the eleven disciples saw Him, and worshipped Him. But some doubted. Do you ever have doubts about the resurrection of Jesus?

ReflectOnIt...

3. Who was going to the tomb and why??
4. How did the stone roll away?
5. What happened to the guards that were posted at the tomb?
6. How were the women greeted?
7. After the women saw the angel, who did they see?
8. Why did Jesus want these women to go tell the disciples?
9. What was the government conspiracy about what happened to the body of Jesus?
10. At the end of the chapter, Jesus gives His disciples the commission to go and tell all nations, in who's name? Do you see a clear teaching of the Trinity? Are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all part of the Godhead?

RespondToIt...

11. What three things does Jesus say His followers are to be doing in verses 19 and 20?
12. Has He left us here on our own to accomplish these things. (see verse 20)? How does this encourage you?
13. Do you recognize that "all authority" has been given to Jesus? That He has authority over all creation, including you and what is happening in your life right now?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-28. Explain the consequences of the resurrection.