

Navigating Uncertain Times

Matthew 28:1-10

INTRODUCTION

If there was ever a story that could teach us how to navigate uncertainty, it is the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. The disciples experienced a week of unbelievable confusion and instability. Though Jesus warned them of His arrest, death, and resurrection, they did not understand. Easter caught them by surprise when it should have been expected. Many of us, like them, face uncertain times. But today's passage reminds us: we serve a risen Savior who guides us through life's unknowns.

KEY POINTS

1. Uncertain Times Will Come

Life is filled with all kinds of uncertainties: financial, relational, professional, or health-related. Just as the weather can change suddenly, so can our circumstances. James 4:13–15 reminds us that we do not know what tomorrow will bring, and even Peter and the disciples promised Jesus loyalty but faltered when challenges arose. Uncertainty is not a sign of God's absence; it is a reality of life. When uncertainty comes, it should not rock our world, because we can trust that Jesus is alive and in control.

2. Uncertain Times Reveal True Friends

When Jesus was arrested, His closest followers who promised to stay fled in fear. Peter, the bold spokesman, denied Him three times. Friends and even family can fail us, but uncertain times reveal who truly stands by us. A real friend is someone who comes in when the whole world goes out. Instead of placing ultimate trust in people, we must rely on Jesus, who will never abandon us.

3. Uncertain Times Offer Fresh Insight

Uncertainty gives us fresh insight into:

- Our commitment level: When life squeezes us, what's inside comes out.
- Our relationship with the Lord: Will we trust Him or look elsewhere?
- Our faith in God's promises: Standing on His Word steadies us.
- Our expectations: Like the disciples expecting a military messiah, we may become disappointed when God doesn't work as we imagined. God allows uncertainty to reveal our hearts and reshape our expectations.

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4. Uncertain Times Do Not Last

Seasons of uncertainty are temporary. John 14:28-29 and 16:17-18 show the disciples' confusion before Jesus' resurrection, but their sorrow turned to joy. Our stability cannot rest on the economy, politics, or circumstances. It must rest on Jesus. What you're going through may not make sense now, but don't lose your joy or hope. Uncertain times are only for a season.

5. Uncertain Times Become Times of Growth and Maturity

God uses uncertain seasons to deepen our faith and maturity when we do the following:

- When you choose to trust His love for you, and pray with thanksgiving, He has it all under control!
- When you refuse having to understand it all before you move forward in faith.
- When you finally begin to stand on His Word.
- When you look for Hope in the Future rather than eyes glued on the Past.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. When have you faced uncertainty, and how did your faith (or lack of it) shape your response?
2. Which of the fresh insights from uncertain times (commitment level, relationship with God, faith in His promises, or expectations) speaks to your current season of life?
3. How can you “stand on God’s Word” like a GPS this week when your feelings or circumstances tempt you to go another direction?
