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Matthew 28
4/24/24

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the women were the first to the tomb? How is that an example for us?
2. For those seeking Christ, what should we fear? Does fear ever keep you from obeying Christ?
3. The angel showed them the empty tomb. Who has shown you in their life that Jesus is alive?
4. How can we differentiate God's truth from men's or Satan's lies?
5. How often do you think about the Great Commission? How do you see it applying for your personally?

Teaching Notes:

Jesus came as a new kind of king to bring a new kind of kingdom.

He will demonstrate this with new power & new life.

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

The women are first to arrive. Why?

They didn't come by faith, they came out of love...

...Sometimes love brings us to places where faith can't...

...but it is where faith will meet us.

Mary Magdalene had 7 demons cast out of her, she is the first to see the risen Christ. The other Mary is the mother of James and Joses. (James the younger) her husband was probably named James.

Joanna household manager of for King Herod who supported the ministry.

Mary the mother of Jesus.

Mary wife of Clopas, could have been Aunt and Uncle.

Salome may be mother of James and John.

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

Earthly impact from a heavenly arrival.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*.

This is the description of something heavenly in earthly terms.

Fear...it is a fearful thing to come into the heavenly kingdom...

...without knowing the king.

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

If we are seeking Jesus, we do not need to be afraid.

It is the relationship to the king that allows us to reject fear.

6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

They need to know what is there, so they can tell others.

The grave was old news.

The new news was good news.

...He is not here. He has risen. Just as He said.

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

17²² As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

20¹⁷ And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

7 And go **quickly** and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”

The angel has done his job.

Jesus is risen, He is going before you, you will see Him.

They were able to see it, and now they needed to share it.

hope is meant to be shared with those without hope.

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

They are doing just what they were told.

Even though they are a little afraid...they had great joy and zeal.

A little fear in obedience or steps of faith is normal.

9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.
One of the only times Jesus is held.

**Obedience to first steps often results in...
...revelation of further steps...**

This is a good template for us...

**God's direction,
Steps of faith,
Actions of obedience
Rewards and results
Worship...leading to greater faith and further steps.**

10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Same message. Same direction.

**...God's word is confirmed not contradicted...
...by God or His servants.**

This was a 70 mile trip.

11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. 12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'

14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." 15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

The guards took the pay off & the rumor spread w/ the Jews.

Churchill said, A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

Nazi minister of propaganda Joseph Goebbels supposedly said...
...A lie told often enough becomes the truth.

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

Some would worship and others doubted.
Not only Thomas doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Authority: “The power or right to give orders, make decisions and enforce obedience.”

Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world.
But what good are kingdoms without authority?

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. **9**Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Here is the Great Commission...

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Because Jesus has the authority, the right, the power to give orders, make decisions and enforce obedience.

...We make disciples of all nation.

Disciples learn to follow, observe, and obey what Christ has commanded through teaching.

The presence of Christ in us and with us is key for the mission.

The kingdom that Jesus came to establish is meant to grow so we are called to go.