

Because He Lives

Matthew 28:1-10

BIG IDEA: The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything: our fear becomes faith, sorrow is replaced by joy, despair is replaced by hope, and our lives become a mission.

WHAT IS TRUE:

- Jesus Christ is risen from the dead—historically and bodily
- The Curse of Death has been defeated
- Forgiveness for sin is now possible; your past no longer defines you
- Salvation is accomplished, secure, and available to all who believe
- Jesus reigns as Lord and Messiah
- The gospel is true and powerful, a message of love and life to sinners
- Christianity and the mission of the church are grounded in the resurrection

OUTLINE:

1. The Resurrection Confronts our Fear (vv. 1–4)

- A. **The Women come expecting death, not resurrection (v. 1).** *“After the Sabbath... Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb.”*
- B. **God interrupts their expectations with power (v. 2–3).** *“There was a violent earthquake... an angel of the Lord descended...”*
- The resurrection is NOT man finding or reaching up to God; it is God breaking into human history. Earthquake -> God acting; Angel -> Heaven coming to earth; Stone rolled away -> not to let Jesus out, but let witnesses in!
- C. **Men tremble before the power of God (v. 4)** *“The guards were so shaken... that they became like dead men.”*
- Do you see the irony here? The living guards become like dead men, while the dead Christ is now alive! Death is defeated. Christ is victorious.
- D. **Application:** Fear of death is no longer ultimate. Fear of Judgment is answered in Christ. Fear of meaninglessness in life is replaced with Hope. God has entered human history, and because Jesus lives, fear no longer has the final word.

2. The Risen Christ Creates Great Joy (vv. 5–8) *“Don’t be afraid... I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.”*

- A. **The gospel begins with “Do not be afraid” (v. 5).** God shows sinners grace.
- B. **The greatest announcement in history (v. 6).** *“He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said.”* This is the heart of Christianity. He has risen.
- C. **The resurrection validates the work of Christ;** Death on the cross paid for sin, and the resurrection proves it was accepted. (Romans 4:25, *“He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”*)
- Without the resurrection, there is no assurance, no victory, no salvation. With the resurrection, *everything Jesus promised is true.*
- D. **Fear turns into joy-filled obedience (v. 8).** *“They left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran...”* The resurrection does not remove reverence for God; it completely transforms it!
- E. **Application:** Christian, this is your reality: your sins are forgiven, your future is secure, your Savior is alive, this world is not your home, you have all of this when you did not deserve anything but death, and now, you can face tomorrow, all just because He Lives! So STOP living as if Good Friday is the end of the story!

3. The Risen Christ Sends Us on Mission (vv. 7–10). *“Go quickly and tell ...”*

- A. **The first command of the resurrection: Go and tell (v. 7).** The first witnesses become the first messengers.
- B. **Jesus meets worshipers on the way (v. 9).** *“Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings.’*
- Notice how this encounter is both physical and personal: they take hold of his feet, showing bodily resurrection. They worship Him, recognizing His Lordship. The risen Christ is not distant. He meets His people.
- C. **Worship leads to mission (vv. 9–10).** *“Do not be afraid... go and tell...”*
- The pattern is clear: they encounter Christ, worship Him, and are sent by Him. This is the Christian life! The mission exists because the tomb is empty.
- D. **Application:** Go and tell someone—this is not optional. The message is urgent—people need to hear. The power is real—Christ is alive. Death has been defeated. Who needs to hear this from you? Where has God already placed you?

4. The Resurrection Changes Everything (Summary)

- A. **From this passage, we see at least three examples:**
- Fear is replaced by faith
 - Sorrow is replaced by joy
 - Silence is replaced by mission
 - Despair is replaced by living Hope
 - Why? *Because He lives.* Jesus is alive!

WHAT TO DO: *Because He lives, salvation is available today.*

- ✓ **If you have never trusted Christ: Repent and Believe the Gospel**
 - Admit you are a sinner and turn from your sin (repent)
 - Believe the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and trust in Jesus as your personal Savior, receiving the forgiveness He purchased with His blood
 - Confess Jesus as your personal Lord
- ✓ **Move from fear to faith; the resurrection calls you to trust Christ fully and stop living as if the tomb is still occupied.**
 - Fear of Death
 - Fear of the Future
 - Fear of Judgment
- ✓ **Rejoice in the Finished Work of Christ; don’t live like the resurrection is just information or good advice**
 - Your sins can be truly forgiven; your sins do not have to rule you or define your past; your past life and choices can be forgiven
 - Your future is truly secure; there is no need to fear physical death
 - Your hope is truly alive; live like eternity is real—because it is.
- ✓ **Worship the risen Lord Jesus** (make Jesus a priority in your life)
 - Honor Christ as Lord
 - Submit your life to Him
 - Live in reverence and joy
- ✓ **Go and tell others of your Hope and Joy, because Jesus lives!**
 - Evangelism is important and commanded
 - The message is powerful and gives eternal life to those who believe
 - People need to hear; Scripture says there is no other way to heaven