



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 27:62-28:15” on November 11 & 14, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 27:27-61 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 27:62-28:15

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 27:62 – 28:15 In today’s passage, Matthew describes the events that took place at the tomb where Jesus’ crucified body had been placed, Jesus’ resurrection, and the response of Jesus’ followers and the Jewish religious leaders to that resurrection. All these happenings created crossroads for everyone present that day: based on what they knew and had seen, had Jesus risen from the dead, or had He not? Each of us face that same crossroads in our spiritual journeys: do our lives reflect our belief in the Resurrected Christ, the Jesus Who is ALIVE?

FOUR GOSPEL STORIES: All four gospels tell the resurrection story from different perspectives; some include details that others do not. However, all the gospels agree about what happened early in the morning on the first day of the week – it had happened just as Jesus said it would! He rose from the dead and spoke with His followers and disciples.

- Of all the gospel writers, only Matthew chose to describe the plans and actions of the chief priests and Pharisees in regard to securing Jesus’ body in the tomb and then hearing the news that His body was no longer there.
- Why do you think Matthew detailed this aspect of the Resurrection story to his ‘audience?’
- What did the actions of the chief priests and Pharisees reveal about their motives, their regard for the Jewish Law, and their view of Jesus and God Himself?
- Regarding the Resurrection, compare the attitudes, responses and actions of the chief priests and Pharisees with those of the disciples to whom Jesus had described exactly what was going to happen to Him.
- God chose Mary Magdalene to be the first to spread the news of the resurrected Jesus. She would have seemed to be an unlikely choice to bear such news - a woman who was uneducated and untrained and who had committed great sin..... but repented, was forgiven, and became a devoted follower of Jesus. What does this tell you about the God we serve?
- What do you think God wanted us to see by having the angel roll the stone away, then sit on the stone and invite the women to come and see where Jesus’ body had lain?

JESUS’ APPEARANCES: Both Matthew and John tell of Jesus’ appearance to the women at the tomb, but John goes on to describe His appearance that same day to the disciples, behind locked doors. Read John 20:19-23, especially noting vs. 21-22; then read Genesis 2:4-7.

- Considering all their experiences with Jesus over the last three years and especially over this last week of His life, how do you think the disciples would have responded to this moment of being filled with the Holy Spirit? Consider individuals among them and the various times they had interacted with Jesus.
- Can you describe a time in your life in which you heard/felt/knew God was speaking to your heart in a special way? How did that impact your life moving forward?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

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CROSSROADS: A crossroads places us in a position of having to make a choice of paths to move forward; each path will result in different outcomes for our own lives and the lives of those around us.

- Can you describe a crossroads (could be non-spiritual) you have experienced that resulted in a life-changing decision? What impact did that have on your life and the lives of those around you?

A spiritual crossroad before each of us is this: Jesus is either ALIVE or He is someone who had good teachings but is still 'in the tomb;' either He changes EVERYTHING or He changes NOTHING.

- How do you respond to that statement? Have you had a moment of realization that Jesus is alive? What changes did that bring about in your life, and how does that shape your journey moving forward?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.