

Matthew 28

Jesus

I. He is Risen

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week **began to dawn...**

John 13:30 [Judas] Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. **And it was night.**

- **Night is over.** Morning has come. Day dawning...

1b... Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.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. 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*.

- Angel descends/rolls away stone setting off another **Great Earthquake**
- Angel sitting on stone looking down...Guards paralyzed/**Woman approach**

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "**Do not be afraid**, for I know that **you seek Jesus** who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for **He is risen**, as He said...

- You seek Jesus who was crucified? You seek a dead Jesus!

Luke 24:5... "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

- Why are you looking for Life among the Dead?
 1. New Age/Scientology/Eastern Religions
 2. Pills/Needles/Lines/Drinks/Tokes
 3. Perversion/Illicit Pleasure/Self-Destructive behavior

Jeremiah 2:13 ...My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

World looks for Light in darkness/Life in lifeless pursuits...**just to feel something**

Isaiah 8:19 ... when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," **should not a people seek their God?** Should they seek the **dead on behalf of the living?** 20 To the law and to the testimony [Word of God]! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because **there is no light in them.**

Any substitute for the Word of God will **leave us in Darkness/Despair**

[cont.] 21 They will pass through it hard-pressed and hungry; and it shall happen, when they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God, and **look upward**. 22 Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and **they will be driven into darkness**.

Why do you seek the living among the dead? Merry Christmas...

Isaiah 9:1 [Only Hope] Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed... 2 The people who **walked in darkness Have seen a great light**; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined... **6 For unto us a Child is born**, Unto us a Son is given

- **Born** to live a sinless life that we could never live
- **Given** to die for our sins we could never pay for
- **Resurrected** to give us hope of abundant life now/Eternal life forever

Why do you seek the Living among the Dead?

God knows we're born looking for something to fill us/make us complete

John 6:35 ... **I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me **shall never thirst**.

John 8:12 **I am the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall **not walk in darkness**, but have the **light of life**."

Angel: Seek Life from the One who Lives...The Risen Christ

- Continue speaking from rock to ladies...

6b... Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

- Jesus left BEFORE the stone rolled away
- Stone moved to let ladies in/not let Jesus out. **Ladies look in...**

John 20:11 [Parallel] ... Mary... stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

- **Ark of Covenant:** Two angels on either side staring at Mercy Seat

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

Gift of Christmas: Father giving Jesus...making a way for us to Him **by His death**
Validated/vindicated/assured **by His Resurrection from the dead**

SUMMARY He is Risen

II. Women Worship the Risen Lord

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.

- Jesus meets ladies where they are at. **Fear/great joy/confusion**
 1. Held Him by the feet and would not let Him go again
 2. Worshiped Jesus Christ the Son of God

Mark 16:9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He **appeared first to Mary Magdalene**, out of whom He had cast seven demons.

Mary was the first person Jesus revealed Himself to.
Jesus says "Mary...Rejoice with Me"

Hebrews 12:2 for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...

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."

SUMMARY Women Worship the Risen Lord

III. Soldiers Bribed

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.

- **They stole Him?** Took His dead body? For what?
- **Swoon Theory:** Jesus was not dead just unconscious?

Dear Eutychus: Our preacher said that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think? **Sincerely, Bewildered**

Dear Bewildered: Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails with 39 heavy strokes, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his heart; embalm him; put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens. **Sincerely, Eutychus**

- **Swoon Theory:** Just say you don't believe. Shameful

Acts 1:3 [Jesus] **presented Himself alive** after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:5 ... [Jesus] was seen by Cephas [Peter], then by the twelve. 6

After that He was seen by over **five hundred brethren at once**, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me [Paul] also, as by one born out of due time.

He was not stolen/He was not resituated/He rose from the dead
Belief in literal bodily resurrection of Jesus from dead is essential for Salvation

Romans 10:9 ... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has **raised Him from the dead**, you will be saved.

- Father, Son, Holy Spirit raised Jesus from dead

SUMMARY Soldiers Bribed

IV. Sent to the World

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 Worshiped/Some Doubted:** State of uncertainty and hesitation

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

- **Apostles**

1. Lit. Delegates/Messengers/ Those sent out with orders
2. Previously 12 sent by Jesus to only the Jews...

Matthew 10:6 [Go] to the **lost sheep of the house of Israel**. 7 ... preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.

Acts 1:8 ... [To the world] ... you shall **receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the **end of the earth**.

- **What is the Message?**

1. How to be a better person?
2. How to feel better about yourself?
3. How to better your community? No.

You are a sinner in rebellion against your Creator and in desperate need of Savior and there is only One that saves; i.e., Jesus, who died for your sins in your place on the cross and rose again in the flesh as our sure hope of Eternal life. Period. [NJC]

1 Corinthians 15:3 ... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

What about us?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- People are headed full-steam ahead for hell ...**we are here to reset the tracks**
- ... the first day of the week began to dawn. Sun had risen **Jesus had risen.**

Do we remember that first sliver of Light that entered the darkness of our lives...and burst into a Brand New/Everlasting Day?

- Good News of Forgiveness/Salvation in Jesus: **Bring it/not hide it**
- **The King of Kings goes before us/He will never leave us/forsake us...**

20b... I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen