

I. Introduction: The resurrection is the most important event in human history, but the people who were eyewitnesses to it responded in vastly different ways.

II. Responses to the Resurrection (Matt 28:1-20).

A. The Guards' Superstitious Fear (vv. 1-4).

1. The first eyewitnesses to the resurrection were the Roman guards stationed in front of the tomb; they were terrified by the angel's presence at the grave.

B. The Womens' Reverential Joy (vv. 5-10).

1. The women that came to anoint the body of Jesus were shocked when they found the tomb empty, but they were filled with joy when they met Jesus moments later.

C. The Jews' Hypocritical Hatred (vv. 11-15).

1. The Jewish leaders responded to the resurrection by burying the truth, choosing instead to lie hypocritically to the Jewish people about Jesus' resurrection.

D. The Disciples' Worshipful Reverence (vv. 16-20).

1. Jesus appeared to His disciples, and they worshipped Him because they knew that He had resurrected from the grave and that He possessed all authority!

III. Conclusion: People today still respond to Jesus' resurrection with superstitious fear, reverential joy, hypocritical hatred, or worshipful reverence.

Study Questions: Reactions to the Resurrection

1. What were some ways that people reacted to Jesus' resurrection? The women? The Apostles? The Romans? The Jews? How would you have reacted? How does the world react today?
2. Who were the first people to experience the resurrection? (**Matt 28:1-4**) Who opened the tomb? (**Matt 28:1-4**) What did the angel look like? (**v. 3**) How did the soldiers respond?
3. What response did the women have to the resurrection? (**Matt 26:5-8**) What did the angel tell the women to do? (**v. 6**) What instructions did the angels give to the women? (**v. 7**)
4. Who did they run into on the way to tell the disciples? (**Matt 26:8-9**) What did they do when they saw Jesus? (**v. 9**) Why did they take hold of His feet? What does this reveal about them?
5. Who did the soldiers go and tell? (**Matt 28:11-15**) What did the Sanhedrin come up with as the official story? (**vv. 12-15**) What does this reveal about their character? (**John 8:44-45**)
6. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' resurrection? (**Matt 28:16-20**) Why were some still doubting? (**v. 17**) What assurance did Jesus give them? (**v. 18**) What command? (**v. 20**)
7. What does it mean that "all authority" has been given to Jesus? (**Matt 28:18-20**) How has Jesus defeated Satan? (**Col 2:15; Heb 2:14; 1 John 3:8**) How long will He be with us?
8. How will you respond to the resurrection of Jesus? Superstitious fear like the guards? Great joy like the women? Hypocritical hatred like the Jews? Worship like the disciples?

Prayer

1. Pray that God will reveal to you the significance of the resurrection today.
2. Ask God to show you how you can be saved from Satan, sin, and death.