

Risen Savior

Salvador Resucitado

How does the Risen Savior give us victory?
¿Cómo nos da la victoria el Salvador Resucitado?

1. He gives us victory over _____.

Él nos da la victoria sobre la _____.

Matthew 28:5-10 (Mateo 28:5-10)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (1 Tesalonicenses 4:13-14)

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 (1 Corintios 15:51-54)

2. He gives us victory over _____.

Él nos da la victoria sobre el _____.

Matthew 28:12-14 (Mateo 28:12-14)

Romans 6:23; 4:25 (Romanos 6:23; 4:25)

John 8:34-36 (Juan 8:34-36)

Acts 2:38 (Hechos 2:38)

3. He gives us victory over _____.

Él nos da la victoria sobre la _____.

Matthew 28:16-20 (Mateo 28:16-20)

Ephesians 1:18-20 (Efesios 1:18-20)

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (2 Corintios 5:18-20)



Life Group Discussion Questions

2025 Easter Lesson, April 20-27

Matthew 28:1-20

Read Matthew 28:1-10

1. Who went to Jesus' tomb? (28:1)

Skeptics have questioned the reliability of the women who were the first to report the news about the empty tomb. Before he became a Christian, Lee Strobel, former editor for the *Chicago Tribune*, investigated the claims the Bible makes about Jesus. He asked William Lane Craig about the women who came to the tomb. Craig answered,

Certainly, these women were friends of Jesus. But when you understand the role of women in first-century Jewish society, what's really extraordinary is that this empty tomb story should feature women as the discoverers of the empty tomb in the first place.

Women were on a very low rung of the social ladder in first-century Palestine. There are old rabbinical sayings that said, "Let the words of the Law be burned rather than delivered to women" and "Blessed is he whose children are male, but woe to him whose children are female." Women's testimony was regarded as so worthless that they weren't even allowed to serve as legal witnesses in a Jewish court of law.

In light of this, it's absolutely remarkable that the chief witnesses to the empty tomb are these women who were friends of Jesus. Any later legendary account would have certainly portrayed male disciples as discovering the tomb—Peter or John, for example. The fact that women are the first witnesses to the empty tomb is most plausibly explained by the reality that—like it or not—they were the discoverers of the empty tomb! This shows that the gospel writers faithfully recorded what happened, even if it was embarrassing. This bespeaks the historicity of this tradition rather than its legendary status. (Strobel, 236-237)

2. Where did the angel go, and what did he do? (28:2)

3. What did guards do when they saw the angel? (28:3-4)

4. What did the angel say to the women in verse 5?

5. What evidence did the angel invite the women to examine? (28:6)
6. What command did the angel give the women in verse 7?
7. How did the women feel as they left the tomb? (28:8)

Larry Chouinard observes,

Although both the women and the guards when confronted with the same events involving an earthquake, the removal of the stone, and the appearance of the “angel of the Lord” are both gripped with “fear” (vv. 4-5), the women are addressed directly and told not to be afraid (v. 5), while the soldiers’ “fear” leaves them as “dead men” (v. 4). Instead of being incapacitated like the soldiers, the events, coupled with their divine interpretation, move the women to action. Clearly, the women followers of Jesus function as models of discipleship. Exemplary devotion enables them to be present as witnesses of both the crucifixion and resurrection. Discipleship as defined by the action of these women, consists of both recognizing and worshiping Jesus as the crucified and risen Christ, and being obedient to a commission to bear witness to others (see vv. 7, 10). In fact, it is the commission of Jesus given the women to announce his resurrection to the disciples that precipitates the reassembling of the male disciples so they might be commissioned to a worldwide mission (28:16-20). (Chouinard, 504)

8. How did the women respond when Jesus met them? (28:9)
9. What did Jesus tell the women in verse 10?

Read Matthew 28:11-15

10. What did the guards from the tomb do in verse 11?
11. What did the chief priests give the soldiers? Why? (28:12-13)
12. How did the religious leaders reassure the guards that they would not get in trouble with the Roman government? (28:14)
13. What happened to the story made up by the chief priests? (28:12-15)

Read Matthew 28:16-20

14. How did the disciples respond when they saw the risen Savior in Galilee? (28:16-17)

Mark Moore writes,

The word “doubt” [*distazō*], does not mean that they refuse to believe, but that they waver in their belief. This word is only used one other time, in Matthew 14:31. It describes Peter when he sank, trying to walk on water. Obviously, he has faith, but it is insufficient for the task at hand. This is likely the way we should read these words. They are hesitant, not resistant. While it would have been better for them to believe the credible testimony of the Apostles, they are neither hardheaded nor hardhearted. Matthew’s honesty here is impressive. His point is simply that this is not fiction but reality. (Moore, 680)

15. What commands did Jesus give us in this passage? (28:18-20)

16. What promise did Jesus give us in verse 20?

17. Why is important for us to remember the resurrection of Jesus?

18. If we really believe in the resurrection of Jesus, how should that make a difference in the way that we live?

19. What would you say to a friend who is having doubts about the resurrection of Jesus?

20. What can you do or say this week to demonstrate your faith in the resurrection of Jesus?

Sources cited:

Chouinard, Larry. *The College Press NIV Commentary: Matthew*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1997.

Moore, Mark. *The Chronological Life of Christ*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2007.

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ: A Journalist’s Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.