

Christ Church

“Let the Adventure Begin”

Passage: Matthew 28

Main Idea: The Resurrection of Jesus Says “Yes”

Doctrine: Resurrection/Trinity/Gospel

PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Focus of *Matthew's* gospel is on Jesus as the King; if anything proves the divine kingship of Jesus, it's His resurrection

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the *single greatest event* in the history of the world; cornerstone of Christianity; changed everything
- The only thing that explains the existence of & the persistence of Christianity through 2000 years is the resurrection of Jesus

Last week: 7 Feasts of Israel; God's Calendar depicting work of Jesus

- Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) pictures the judgment *after* Jesus' second coming when all people will stand before Him to be judged
- But we also see in this Feast a picture of what Jesus did at Easter

Innermost part of Tabernacle/Temple was called Holy of Holies where Ark of the Covenant was placed containing tablets of God's broken law

- Top of Ark was called “atonement cover” or “mercy seat”
- Once a year, high priest would go behind curtain into Holy of Holies with blood of animal sacrifices & sprinkle the blood on mercy seat

When high priest went into Holy of Holies, the people would stand outside watching & praying & confessing sins, because if high priest didn't come out alive, it meant God hadn't accepted the sacrifice & the people's sins were not forgiven

- But, if he came out alive, it meant God had accepted the sacrifice & their sins were forgiven, at least for one more year = pictures Easter
- As our Great High Priest, when Jesus died & was buried, He took His own blood & placed it on the true mercy seat in heaven to cover our sins & satisfy the wrath of God not for one year, but forever

How can we be sure God accepted Jesus' sacrifice? Jesus didn't stay dead; He came out alive as the “firstfruit” of all who would be raised

- The resurrection of Jesus proves that God accepted His sacrifice

MAIN IDEA: The Resurrection of Jesus Says “Yes”

2 Corinthians 1:20: “Because of Jesus, all God’s promises are ‘yes’”

- When God raised Jesus from the dead, just as Jesus said He would, it proved that God is God & that He keeps all His promises = “Yes”
- YES, my sins are forgiven; YES, I am no longer under God’s wrath
- YES, God will give me wisdom if I ask; YES, His Spirit will give me power to witness & to work & to love *Him* & to love & serve others
- YES, God will help me when I’m tired or troubled or tempted
- YES, God will strengthen me when I’m afraid
- YES, God will fill me with His Spirit & produce fruit in me
- YES, Jesus is preparing a place for me in heaven right now & yes, He will return one day & take me to live with Him forever
- The Resurrection of Jesus Says “Yes”; what we bank our lives on

So, the story of Jesus’ work in & through *disciples’* lives, in & through *our* lives, isn’t over just because we’ve come to last chapter of Matthew

- This is just beginning of the adventure; so “*Let the Adventure Begin*”

Outline

- I. The Confrontation (Matthew 28:1-10)
- II. The Cover-Up (Matthew 28:11-15)
- III. The Commission (Matthew 28:16-20a)
- IV. The Comfort (Matthew 28:20b)

Open your Scripture Journal to Matthew 28

I. THE CONFRONTATION (Matthew 28:1-10)

Jesus crucified on Friday; buried before 6:00 pm when Saturday started; in grave all day Saturday

- Before dawn on Sunday, Mary Magdalene, woman from whom Jesus had cast out 7 demons, & at least one other “Mary” went to Jesus’ tomb & were *confronted* with an earthquake and an angel who had descended from heaven & rolled back the stone

From the way people respond in Bible when they see angels, these are not cute, chubby, winged cherubs playing harps on clouds

- Angels are powerful messengers of God whose appearance is “*like lightning*”; that’s why every time they appear to people, the angel’s first words are “*Don’t be afraid*”
- Guards protecting the tomb were so afraid they became catatonic

Verse 5: “*But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, & behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.”*”

- Angel didn’t roll stone away so Jesus could get out; the stone was moved so others could get in & see tomb was empty
- That’s what angel invited women to do, “Come & see; no body there”
- Now that you have seen, “Go & tell”; pattern of the Gospel

See this pattern again in verses 8-10, when women were *confronted* with Jesus Himself

- “*So, they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”*”

There are 5 “*behold’s*” in this chapter; *be astonished*; Jesus is alive & Jesus is personally revealing Himself to you & giving you work to do

- Be astonished Jesus’ disciples now called “*brothers*” & sisters = US
- Because Jesus died & rose again, we’re not only forgiven; we’re brought into God’s family & we share same Father = *astonishing*

The women’s first response to seeing risen Lord is “*worship*”; ascribing worth to God; we were created to worship God; what we do when pray “Adoration” – ascribe worth by remembering & rehearsing Who God is

- Like in verses 1-5 with what angel said, Jesus told the women, “Come & see”, & then “go & tell”; experiencing Jesus gives purpose

Why were these women first to see risen Christ & be used in His work?

- Because they were there; even though they thought Jesus was dead, they got up early to be where He was
- If we want to experience God & be used by God, we gotta be there

II. THE COVER-UP (Matthew 28:11-15)

Roman soldiers standing guard over tomb told religious leaders what had happened - earthquake, angel, stone rolled away & empty tomb

- Leaders bribed them, gave them money, to say, *verse 13*: “His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep”
- Punishment for sleeping on the job was death; that’s why leaders said they would “satisfy” governor & keep soldiers out of trouble
- 30 years later, when *Matthew* written, this *cover-up* still spread

Gospel Lesson: When a heart is hard & set against believing, no amount of evidence will soften it; that’s why we need the Gospel

- God has to soften our hearts & open our eyes & create faith to believe or it doesn’t happen

TRANSITION

Matthew doesn’t end with the resurrection; he doesn’t even include Christ’s ascension 40 days later; ends with Great Commission

- Why? Because the Resurrection of Jesus Says “Yes”; yes, we will live forever with Jesus, but yes, we also have work to do until then
- Jesus suffered & died & rose again not simply to get us to heaven, but to employ us in His work

III. THE COMMISSION (Matthew 28:16-20a)

Verse 16: “Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.”

- Once again, appropriate response to seeing Jesus is worship
- “Doubt” = “hesitate”; hesitated to believe it really was Him, possibly because it just seemed too good to be true
- But Jesus didn’t condemn them for deserting Him or doubting Him
- Instead, He reminded them of Who He is & gave them work to do

Verse 18: “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” = Work of the Trinity

- God the Father is the Planner; He planned everything
- Jesus the Son is Doer; God the Father gave His Son authority to do everything He had planned = massive implications
- Jesus has ALL authority over disasters, stock market, elections, our health, our families, our work, & our deaths = ALL authority

Verse 19-20a: “*Therefore*”, because Jesus has *all* authority over everything & everyone in heaven & earth, because all of life is to be a life of showing off His worth, He has authority to tell us how to do that

- He says to disciples & to us: “Go” (you “came & saw”, now go) *“make disciples (make worshipers) of all nations”*
- Disciples are followers, learners; those who *look & live* like Jesus
- Jesus isn’t talking about merely walking an aisle or signing a card
- Jesus was never about gathering large numbers; His earthly ministry was about the *quality* of His followers, not the *quantity*
- Looking for those men & women who would deny themselves, take up their cross & follow Him wherever He went

How does Jesus say to make disciples?

Verse 19: “*Baptizing them in name of the Father & Son & Holy Spirit*”

- Baptism is a picture of Jesus’ death, burial, & resurrection
- Baptism does not save us; rather, it’s an outward sign of something that’s happened on the inside; symbol, like a wedding ring
- A public proclamation that we are identifying with Jesus; we’re on His team; He’s the authority in our lives; He’s calling the shots

Trinity: The reason we’re baptized in the name of Father & Son & Holy Spirit is because all three are involved in the work of our salvation

- God the Father *planned* it (Planner)
- God the Son (Jesus) *performs* it (Doer)
- God the Holy Spirit *produces* it (Applier; brings it home)

Disciples, true followers of Jesus, are those who publicly identify with Jesus in baptism; also, those who have been taught to obey Jesus

- Verse 20a: “*Teaching them to observe all I have commanded you*”
- We don’t pick & choose what to teach or what things to obey

Teach “*all things*”, entire Bible, to produce obedience in everything Jesus commands; teaching which goes beyond knowledge in heads

- Teaching which impacts our hearts & produces obedience in hands
- Changes in *what* we believe that lead to changes in *how* we behave
- “*It’s Christ-exalting behavior which flows from Christ-cherishing hearts, not just Christ-knowing minds*”

We don't obey Jesus to get saved, but because we are saved; obedience is the *fruit* of the Holy Spirit living in us

- John 14, Jesus said that obedience proves we love Him & that we really are His disciples
- This is why we do Bible study the way we do; we're making disciples
- Our goal is not to just fill your heads with more information
- We want what we're learning in our heads to move to our hearts in such a way that what we say & what we do changes

We must be careful not to read the Great Commission as a "to do" list

- Don't think, "Am I doing this? Am I making disciples?"
- Ask yourself, "Am I BEING this? Am I being a disciple? Am I following Jesus so closely that others who look at my life & listen to my words, know that I belong to Jesus?"

We must be a disciple before we can make disciples

- Matthew 6:33: "*YOU seek Me first*" & I'll take care of the rest
- The greatest need of everyone in our lives is our personal walk with God; that should be our first priority; what they need to see & hear is a woman who loves Jesus more than anything or anyone else

So how *should* we read Great Commission? Like we read other commands in Scripture, "*I can't do that; I can't be that kind of person; I can't show & tell Jesus to others; I can't make disciples; I'm not enough*" – that's why the good news is so good; because we can't

- We're not enough; we can't do enough; if we could, Jesus wouldn't have had to die, but because the resurrection says "Yes", we can
- That's what we see at end of verse 20

IV. THE COMFORT (Matthew 28:20b)

Verse 20b: "*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*"

- "*Be astonished*"; Jesus never commands us to do anything without giving us everything we need to do it
- "*I'm not gonna put you out there & leave you there*"
- Jesus is always with us through Spirit who lives in us; "*Comforter*"
- Comfort is not a warm fuzzy word; comfort means "with strength"
- The Holy Spirit is the promise of Jesus to give us strength to obey
- He's the *power* to *produce* the obedience that the Father *planned* & that Jesus commands

And it's all because of the resurrection; it was only after Jesus had been raised & ascended to the Father that the disciples received *"the firstfruits of the Holy Spirit"*

- We cannot *be & do* anything that God created & commands us to *be & do* without God's Spirit
- How long can we count on His presence & power? *"To end of age"*
- Jesus says to disciples & to us, *"Until I'm with you again in Person, I promise that I will be with you in Spirit"*

Because Jesus died & rose again, we not only have forgiveness of sins, & adoption into God's family, but we have purpose for life & we have power for living

- First, we *"come & see"*; then we *"go & tell"*
- We have work to do for God's Kingdom; AND we have all the power we need to accomplish the work God calls us to do

CLOSING

The Resurrection of Jesus Says "Yes"; & it's what changed everything

- Here's these fearful, fickle, flawed disciples who were sleeping when they should have been praying; boasting when they should have been silent; running when they should have been standing firm
- These men who were more concerned for themselves than for Jesus
- But oh, what different men they became after resurrection & the coming of Holy Spirit into their lives
- What was true of their lives is true of ours, & it's Grand Adventure

"You don't have to know a lot of things for your life to make a lasting difference. But you do have to know the few great things that matter, and then be willing to live for them & die for them. The people that make a lasting difference are not the people who have mastered many things, but those who have been mastered by a few great things."

- Pray through our study of Matthew, your mind & heart have been mastered by the greatest things of Jesus & His work in the Gospel
- That you know Jesus better & you love Jesus more in a way that will make a lasting difference not only in *your* life, but in the lives of everyone God puts you with wherever He puts you

PRAYER