

# MATTHEW CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT

## Take - a - ways

### HE IS RISEN ... AS HE SAID HE WOULD

His Story (Vss 1-15)  
His Sovereignty (Vss 16-18)  
His Strategy (Vss 19-20a)  
His Surety (Vss 20b)

The empty tomb is a silent witness of the Resurrection  
If His disciples had found His body, they would have given Him a proper burial  
If His enemies had found His body, they would have produced it  
To prove Him a liar and a fraud

The entire Trinity had a part in this glorious event  
God the Father - Hebrews 13:20  
God the Son - John 2:19-21  
God the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:11

Jesus did not pass out from the agony of the Cross  
And later revive in the cool tomb  
Pilate questioned the Centurion who pronounced Jesus dead (Mark 15:44)  
And the soldier who broke the legs of the other thieves  
Verified Jesus was indeed dead (John 19:31-34)

- The Importance of the Resurrection:
- a) It proves He is the Son of God (John 10:17-18)
  - b) It affirms the truth of Scripture (Acts 2:31 with Psalm 16:10)
  - c) Assures us of our future resurrection (I Thess 4:14 ff)
  - d) Proof of future judgment upon the unsaved (Acts 17:30-31)
  - e) One of the central truths upon which the Gospel is based (I Cor 15:1-6)
  - f) The basis of our future heavenly inheritance (I Peter 1:3ff)
  - g) It gives power to the Christian life (Eph 1:18-20)

Jesus is unique in all the world of religious leaders  
He is the only one who's tomb you cannot visit  
He is not there - He is risen... as He said He would

# 04-05 Lesson: The Resurrection of Jesus and the Great Commission

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Date Time: 2026-04-05 17:43:04

Location: First Baptist Church, Tallassee Alabama

Instructor: Sid Edwards

## Summary

This lesson, delivered by Sid, continues a previous lesson by Trey and centers on the resurrection of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28. It traces the first Easter morning from the disciples' despair after the crucifixion to the dawn of the resurrection. The talk is organized around four key points about Jesus: His Story, His Sovereignty, His Strategy (the Great Commission), and His Surety (His constant presence). It recounts Mary Magdalene and the other Mary arriving at the tomb, the earthquake, the angel's announcement, Jesus' appearances to the women and disciples, and the chief priests' plot to spread a false narrative. The lecture culminates with a detailed explanation of the Great Commission, breaking down its elements and comparing how it appears across all four Gospels and Acts, underscoring believers' ongoing responsibility to share the gospel.

## Knowledge Points

### 1. The Resurrection Story (His Story)

- **The Setting After the Crucifixion**

- Picking up where Trey left off, the lecture moves from the “darkness” and despair following Jesus' crucifixion to the “dawn” of the resurrection.
- The disciples were hiding in fear for their lives; Roman authorities were uneasy. It was a time of death, despair, loss, and hopelessness.

- **The Women at the Tomb**

- Matthew 28:1 begins with Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” coming to the tomb after the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week.
- Mary Magdalene, a devoted follower from whom Jesus cast out seven demons, was present at the crucifixion, burial, and now the empty tomb.
- “The other Mary” is most likely the mother of James the Less and Joseph—another faithful follower—not Mary the mother of Jesus or Mary of Bethany (Lazarus's sister).
- Other accounts (Luke) mention Salome, likely the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John; she may have been Jesus' aunt.
- These women bravely went in the early morning to complete burial anointing they couldn't finish on Friday. Concerned about moving the stone, they went undeterred.
- Joseph of Arimathea had already used over 100 pounds of spices for burial—royal-scale, far more than the typical 5–10 pounds. The women brought even more.
- A sober note: they expected to find Jesus' body, showing they had not yet grasped the resurrection.

- **The Angel and the Empty Tomb**

- Matthew 28:2–3 describes a great earthquake as an angel descended, rolled away the stone, and sat on it—appearance like lightning, clothing white as snow.
- The speaker’s personal interpretation (“the gospel according to Sid”): the earthquake may reflect the immense power involved in raising Jesus.
- The Roman guards, already on edge lest the disciples steal the body, were so terrified they “became like dead men” and fainted.

- **The Angel’s Message**

- In Matthew 28:4, the angel told the women, “Do not be afraid,” announcing that Jesus, who was crucified, was not there because He had risen as He said.
- The angel invited them to see the empty place where Jesus lay.
- The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out—He had already risen—but to let the women, the disciples, and later believers in to see the evidence.
- In verse 7, the angel gave “marching orders”: go quickly, tell the disciples He has risen and is going ahead to Galilee, where they will see Him.

- **Jesus’ First Appearances**

- Combining the Gospels: Mary Magdalene first left to tell the disciples. Peter and John ran to the tomb, saw it empty, and left.
- Mary returned weeping, encountered two angels, then met Jesus but mistook Him for the gardener until He spoke her name.
- Jesus told Mary Magdalene, “Don’t cling to me,” indicating a shift from a physical to a spiritual relationship with believers; He had not yet ascended to the Father (John 20:17).
- Later, as the women were leaving, Jesus met them again; they took hold of His feet and worshipped Him. He repeated the message: tell the “brothers” to go to Galilee.
- The difference (Mary not touching vs. other women touching) is explained by the view that Jesus ascended to the Father to present His sacrifice between these meetings; after acceptance, touching was permissible.

- **The Cover-Up Plot**

- As the women departed, some guards reported everything to the chief priests and elders.
- The leaders plotted to discredit the resurrection, bribing the soldiers with a “large sum” to say the disciples stole the body while they slept.
- Judas received 30 pieces of silver (about \$28,000 today) to betray Jesus; the soldiers were paid significantly more for silence.
- This lie spread widely among the Jews and was still circulating around A.D. 50 when Matthew wrote—persisting even today.

- **Subsequent Recorded Appearances of Jesus**

- **Road to Emmaus:** He met two men, walked and ate with them; they testified their hearts “burned within” as He spoke.
- **Simon Peter:** On resurrection day, Jesus met privately with Peter—critical for reconciliation after Peter’s three denials.
- **The Disciples (without Thomas):** Jesus appeared to ten of the eleven on the first Sunday evening.

- **The Disciples (with Thomas):** Eight days later, He appeared again; Thomas believed upon seeing Him, without touching.
- **The Fishing Trip:** In John 21, Jesus appeared to seven disciples at the Lake of Tiberias and shared breakfast.
- **Over 500 Believers:** 1 Corinthians 15 records appearances to the apostles and then to over 500 believers on a mountainside.
- **James:** Jesus' brother James became a believer after the resurrection, shortly before the ascension (1 Corinthians 15).
- **The Eleven in Galilee:** He met the eleven on a designated mountain in Galilee.
- **The Ascension:** Forty days after the resurrection, He appeared to the eleven on the Mount of Olives and ascended to heaven (Acts 1).

## 2. Jesus' Sovereignty, Strategy, and Surety

### ● His Sovereignty

- In Matthew 28:16–18, the eleven went to the designated mountain in Galilee. They worshipped Him, though “some were doubtful.”
- Jesus declared, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
- The Father granted this authority because of Jesus' perfect life and sacrificial death, enabling His work through ordinary people.

### ● His Strategy (The Great Commission)

- Matthew 28:19–20 lays out the ministry's strategy—the Great Commission.
- **“Go therefore”:** Not merely a command but an expectation: “as you go” in daily life (work, store, etc.), sow gospel seeds.
- **Four-Point Strategy:**
  1. **Come:** Personally receive salvation before enlisting others.
  2. **Win:** Make new disciples as you go.
  3. **Teach:** Train and encourage believers, helping them grow from “milk to meat.” Edify, encourage, and inspire amid the hard road; teaching should transform life from the inside out.
  4. **Baptize:** While attendees may not administer baptisms, they should teach its importance. Baptism is the first step of obedience—an outward sign of inward change and a public declaration of faith.

## 2. The Great Commission in Other Gospels

- The Great Commission appears in all the Gospels and Acts.
- **Mark 16:** “Go into all the world and preach to every creature” (every rational human).
- **Luke 24:** Emphasizes preaching “repentance and remission of sins.”
- **John 20:** Highlights the “how”: “As the Father has sent me, I also send you”—in the same spirit of sacrifice.
- **Acts 1:** Gives the “geography of the gospel”: start in Jerusalem, then Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth after the Holy Spirit comes. For believers today, start locally and expand outward.

- **His Surety**

- Matthew 28:20 concludes with the guarantee: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- **The “I AM”**: Links Jesus to God’s revelation to Moses, signifying the eternal, unchanging God.
- **Personal and Perpetual Promise**: Personal (“with you,” singular and plural) and perpetual (“until the end of the age”). God’s promises don’t expire.
- **God’s Faithfulness**: God remains present even when we feel otherwise; we drift or fail—God never changes and keeps His promises.

### 3. Concluding Remarks and Resources

- **Cries from the Cross Handout**

- A handout lists the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross—each a “sermon within itself.”
- Themes include forgiveness (“Father, forgive them”), salvation (“You will be with me in paradise”), relationships (“a new son” for His mother), suffering (“Why have you forsaken me?”), humanity (“I thirst”), completion (“It is finished”), and surrender (“Into your hands I commend my spirit”).

- **Salvation and Sincerity**

- The thief on the cross illustrates that salvation’s benefits are the same for all, regardless of how long one has been a Christian; sincerity, not longevity, matters.

### Assignments

- Review the “takeaway sheet” and the “Cries from the Cross” handout available at the back by the sound room.
- Reflect on the four-point strategy of the Great Commission (Come, Win, Teach, Baptize) and consider how to apply the “as you go” principle to share the gospel in daily life.
- Consider the question posed in the lecture: “What is your soul worth?”
- Practice Luke 24:49’s admonition to “tarry for a while”—sit, be still, and listen for God’s instructions amid daily noise.