



The Gospel According To MATTHEW

Chapter 28:1-15

“This is Why I Am a Christian!”

Introduction: Matthew 27:57-66 – Observe the sealing and guarding of the tomb.

(v1-8) The Promise of the Resurrection—Rejoice!

- **Jesus predicts His death and resurrection:**

Matthew 12:40 - For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 16:21 - *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

Matthew 17:22-23 - *Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up."*

Matthew 20:17-19 - *Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."*

> The order of events on the resurrection morning were as follows:

In the early morning, the women went to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body, even though they did not know how they could get into the tomb (Mk. 16:2-3). There were the three, Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James, Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:10), and Salome, followed by other women who had accompanied Jesus from Galilee (Lk. 23:55—24:1). The three women found the stone had been removed by an angel (Mt. 28:2). Mary Magdalene hurried to tell Peter and John, who ran toward the tomb (Jn. 20:2-4). Meanwhile, Mary the mother of James, Salome, and then the other women arrived at the tomb, entered it and saw angels who assured them Jesus had risen. They ran from the tomb in fear and joy to inform His disciples (Mt. 28:8). Peter and John arrived at the tomb, entered, observed, and left (Jn. 20:4-10). Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb, stood weeping, and Jesus revealed Himself to her (Jn. 20:11-18). As the other women were on their way to tell His disciples, Jesus appeared to them (Mt. 28:9-10).

(v9-10) The Power of the Resurrection—Rejoice!

- Notice three key words of Jesus in verses 9 and 10:

- (1) “Rejoice!”
- (2) “Don’t be afraid!”
- (3) “Go and tell!”

- Dr. Luke writes in Acts Ch. 1 that we have many “*infallible proofs*” to the resurrection of Christ! (Acts 1:1-3 - *The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also 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.*)

- Let's look at these "infallible proofs" according to the eyewitnesses:

- (1) After His resurrection Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene (Jn. 20:11-18).
- (2) Jesus appeared to the women returning from the tomb (Mt. 28:5-10).
- (3) Jesus appeared to Peter (Lk. 24:34).
- (4) Jesus appeared to His disciples on the Emmaus road (Lk. 24:13-48).
- (5) Jesus appeared to the apostles; Thomas not present (24:36-43).
- (6) Jesus appeared again to His disciples with Thomas present (Jn. 20:24-29).
- (7) Jesus appeared to the seven by the Sea of Tiberias (Jn. 21:1-23).
- (8) Jesus appeared to over five hundred brethren (1 Cor. 15:6).
- (9) Jesus appeared to James (1 Cor. 15:7).
- (10) Jesus appeared again to the eleven apostles (Mt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:3-12).
- (11) Jesus appeared to Stephen, the first martyr (Acts 7:55).
- (12) Jesus appeared to Paul on the Damascus road (Acts 9:3-6).

- Many of these eyewitnesses died as martyrs as they preached the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- These Apostles and believers went from fear to unlimited courage. They prayed and witnessed with great power (Acts 4:23-33) They found power in persecution and rejoiced (Acts 5:40-42). The early Christians went everywhere with the word of the Resurrection in power (Acts 8:1-4; Acts 17:18-32; 23:6-8; 24:15-21)! They chose death, with faith in the resurrected Christ, rather than to deny that faith and be delivered (Heb. 11:35).

(v11-15) The Glory of the Resurrection—Rejoice!

- The corrupt religious leaders, soldiers, and all those that deny the resurrection of the Son of God will one day find themselves guilty before God. They continually deny the *infallible proofs* of God's Word, His Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, those that believe with all their heart will one day find themselves in the glory of the resurrection of Christ! (Listen to one commentator's rebuttal to this clever deception of the corrupt religious leaders.)

- Jesus promised that He would die for our sins, and He did! Jesus promised that He would rise again on the third day, and He did! Jesus promised that He would forgive our sins, fill us with the Holy Spirit and change our lives, and He has! Jesus promised that He will come again and receive us unto Himself whether through death or the rapture of the church, and He will!

- **Remember He has promised in John 14:1-3** - *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

- **Phil 3:20-21** *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

- Let's go out in a blaze of GLORY! Let's read 1 **Corinthians 15:35-58**.