



Three Responses to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Matthew 28:1-10

The first response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that of the two women named Mary.

Text Message:

- *How can wrap our minds around their experience?*
A great earthquake taking place... (See Matthew 27:51).
An Angel with an appearance like lightning, clothed in white...
Battle-hardened guards trembling, becoming like dead men...
The sheer terror this must've triggered!
- *Should this not cause us today to have a healthy fear of God?*
- Those who have such awe of God can hear, like the women, the words of the angel and of Jesus, "Do not be afraid."
- ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.
- Only Matthew mentions this in his Gospel.
- Notice Jesus takes the initiative here: "Jesus met them..."
- *Could there be a better response than that of these women?*
- *Is this where your (my) heart is this morning?*
- *May Jesus meet us this Easter and may we take hold of Him!*

The second response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that of some of the guards.

Text Message:

- It is totally understandable that they responded as they did:
⁴ ... for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.
- This is what happens when heaven meets earth!
- What is less understandable is the response of some of the guards (See Verses 11-14).
- They too experienced the great earthquake, angelic visitation, the involuntary response of falling as though struck...
- **And yet** their response to what happened is less understandable: *Why didn't this change their lives?*
- Shepherds standing watch at night were changed at an angelic appearance, while some of these guards standing watch remained unchanged!
- Instead:
 - 1) They who became like dead men **stayed dead men!**
 - 2) The story they should've told was the story they sold!
 - 3) Like Judas before them, they were bought off and traded what was imperishable for what would perish.
- **This response** would not be as painful if it were merely an historical account of what happened that first Easter...
- **However**, it is a response repeated every Easter when listening doesn't touch the life, when hearing doesn't lead to surrender and worship to Jesus Christ, the Risen One!
- The haunting question that awaited these guards at the end of their lives is the same one today: *Was it worth it?*

The third response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ is your (my) response this Easter morning.

Text Message:

- We are left to wonder the response of the other guards.
- But we don't have to wonder at our own response.
- *If there is a decision you need to make this Easter, let it be like that of the women, who have joined that "great cloud of witnesses" in heaven above and can say, "It was worth it!"*