

## Matthew 28 “The Messiah Lives!”

Please stand and open your bibles to Psalm 16

We are now coming to the end of Matthew and seeing the most important part of the gospel message...the resurrection. We left off with Jesus dying for our sins. We heard his last words “It is Finished”. We talked about the earthquake and veil that was torn that showed us the way to God was opened. This is all good news but how do we know it is true? There is no temple anymore to show the torn curtain. A lot of people have died for others but that doesn't take our sins away. No, the death of Jesus is only half the story. The gospel is only good news when we can say “The Messiah Lives!”

We still have a little bit of Matthew 27 to finish so let's jump right in...

The Burial of Jesus  
Matthew 27:57-61

We don't know much about this Joseph. He is only mentioned as being the one who buried Jesus. He is mentioned in all four gospels. We learn a little more from Mark...

Mark 15:43

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

So, we see that he was rich, a council member, a disciple of Jesus, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God. That's a lot to be said of someone who we will never hear from again this side of heaven. We also discover that he was not alone...

John 19:38-39

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

We know Nicodemus was kind of a distance follower and we now find out so was Joseph. It seems like it took the death of Jesus for them to come out in the open. What we do learn is that there were many that were following Jesus. Did Joseph know that he was only letting out his tomb? He did pay the proper Jewish respect for the dead by wrapping the body. By what we learn from John is that they used a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes. Let's remember that he was mummified for three days!

The Guard is Set

Matthew 27:62-66

Only Matthew tells us about the guard. None of the others mention it. I have heard many commentators talk about how many there were, and we are not told. Guard is the Greek word

for where we get “custodian” or like a guard that is watching over those “In Custody”. It is interesting that he tells them to “Make it Secure” which is the word we get “Asphalt”, and the seal is the government seal that is punishable by death if opened. In other words, you ain’t opening it! Made secure with something like asphalt and sealed up with a guard set, Matthew is pointing out the impossibility of something other than the miraculous happening. Convincing a Jewish audience of the resurrection would require a little more than just the Apostles showing up and finding the tomb empty. By Matthew mentioning the Guard he adds to the miracle and gives them an explanation of the stories they had heard from the Jewish leaders that still rejected Christ after He rose from the dead.

## The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-10

Can you imagine the shock of it all when they got to the tomb and saw all this! Now you may have read the other gospels and asked yourself how all work as each writer said something a little different. Let’s take a quick look at them then put them together...

## The Other Accounts

Mark 16:1-8

Luke 24:1-12

John 20:1-18

As we have just read there seems to be a contradiction but there is not. It is what we call a harmony. Answers in Genesis had a

good article with some frames to help us get a picture of how it all fit.

Mary Magdalene and the other women travel from Bethany to Jesus' tomb.

Nearing Jesus' tomb, the women notice the stone rolled away. Mary Magdalene leaves to tell Peter and John while the other women continue to the open tomb.

The other women return to Bethany, stopping first in the city to report what they have seen to Clopas and other followers of Jesus.

Mary Magdalene returns to Jesus' tomb with Peter and John.

Peter and John return to the house after seeing the empty tomb.  
**First Appearance:** Mary Magdalene stays behind, and Jesus appears to her outside the tomb.

**Second Appearance:** Jesus appears to the other women as they are on their way back to Bethany.

The women returning to Bethany arrive and report what they have seen to eight of the disciples. The eight disciples travel to the house where John and Peter are staying.

**Third Appearance:** Jesus appears to Clopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus.

**Fourth Appearance:** Jesus appears to Peter (time and location unknown; it may have been prior to the Emmaus Road appearance).

**Fifth Appearance:** Jesus appears to John, Peter, and eight disciples. (Thomas is not there.)

So, \* guess what the story tells us?

\*Jesus is Alive!!!

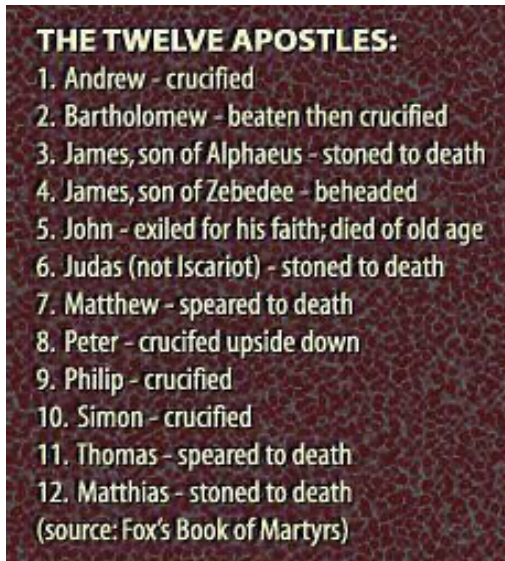
What is interesting to me is that they were told to go to Galilee and when we read the account in John it is almost like they had given up and decided to go fishing. Like they were tired of waiting. We are not sure why Matthew does not give us any of the details of Jesus appearing in the house that day. He does make it clear to the first century Jew that what they have been taught by the religious leaders in Jerusalem was all a lie...

Another Conspiracy

Matthew 28:11-15

So, you see as Matthew is sharing his gospel to Jews it was important to clear that up as it was the pervading lie that they have been told. This is something that can be put to the test. Let's just take the eleven Apostles. If they had stolen the body and came up with this elaborate lie, would they be willing to die for it? All of them would be tortured and persecuted and 10 of them would die a horrible death. Only John would die naturally but not before being boiled in oil and then sent to prison on Patmos.

No \* reasonable thinking man would believe that. Or the three million people that died in the first three hundred years of the church. All they had to do was renounce Christ and save themselves from a horrible death. Would they do that for a lie? The blood of the early Apostles is proof positive of the resurrection.



I was there \* and can testify that He is not there, He is Risen! \*

The Great Commission  
Matthew 28:16-20

This is the commandment for all believers. We are told to Go, and no excuses. Mark tells us like this...

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

It does not mean that you have to be baptized to be saved. What it does mean is that we need to preach the gospel to everyone. So, we are going to spend the next few weeks looking at “What is the gospel?” and how a person gets saved. We need to dispel some beliefs and practices out there that are not biblical. We want to be faithful to the call to go.

But notice that it says that some doubted? Why? We know Jesus rebuked them for that. We know they have been told over and over again that He was going to rise from the dead. What was their problem? They had yet to be filled with the Spirit! Let’s take a look at what happened right after this in the book of Acts.

#### Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 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, 3 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. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times

or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In order for you and me to be effective at all in ministry we have to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Do \* you have the Holy Spirit?

John 3:5-8

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

How does one become born of the Spirit?

1 John 5:1,4-5

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God... For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



It all comes back to the message we are told to go into all the world to share...

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

That's Good News! Receive it and go out and share it!