

Easter 2021 003

4/4/21

## The Risen King

### Matthew 28:1-7

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. The Resurrection of Jesus

1. The resurrection of Jesus is the single greatest event in all of human history.
2. It was and is the culminating event of God's redemptive plan for lost men and women.
3. We can be forgiven of sin & have eternal life because Jesus died & rose again.
4. The resurrection means 3 things for Christianity:
  - (1) – A Unique Beginning
    - a. Christianity began based on a risen Savior. Jesus is alive right now.
    - b. No other religion in the world has a living founder.
    - c. The message Jesus died for our sin & rose again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day is our eternal anthem
  - (2) – A Unique Existence
    - a. Christianity alone believes Jesus is God. Christianity is set apart because we place our faith in Jesus to be forgiven of our sin and enter His kingdom.
  - (3) – Unique Spiritual Power
    - a. Those who are saved by faith in Jesus are indwelt & empowered by the Holy Spirit.
    - b. The Holy Spirit enables obeying God's law proportionate to surrendering to Him.

#### II. Testimony of The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-6)

##### A. First Day of the Week

1. Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath. Sunday is the first day of the week.
2. A day counted as ending at sundown with the corresponding beginning of the new day.
3. Resurrection of Jesus took place sometime between sundown on Saturday evening & sunrise on Sunday morning with exact time being between God the Father & God the Son
4. Jesus had resurrected and was gone by the time the events described here took place.

##### B. A group of women

*Resurrection morning, group of women came to the tomb honoring Jesus with proper burial.*

1. – Mary Magdalene
  - a. Before Mary met Jesus she had been possessed and plagued by seven demons (**Luke 8:2**) which Jesus cast out thus setting her free.
  - b. Mary believed on Jesus and was saved. She became a devout follower of Christ.
  - c. She was among the first to visit the tomb that morning.
2. – The other Mary
  - a. This is Mary, the mother of James and Joseph.
  - b. Her sons, James the lesser & Joseph, followed her to Jerusalem & also followed Jesus
3. – Group of women
  - a. According to synopsis of the Gospel accounts, a group of women came to the tomb.
  - b. Leading Role: Women led in the preparation & burial of Jesus. He was crucified & died on Friday. His body had to be down before sundown, the beginning of Sabbath.
  - c. The ladies hastily wrapped His body & placed Him in the tomb, but returned at dawn Sunday to properly anoint His body & honor Him with a proper burial.
  - d. The devotion of these women to Jesus, even in death, is exemplary.
  - e. Application: To whom much is forgiven one would expect much gratitude. Us?

### III. **When They Arrived (Matthew 28:2-4)**

- *When these ladies arrived at the tomb, it was open and an angel was sitting on the large stone that had covered the entrance.*
- A. **Tomb had been sealed.**
  1. The religious leaders knew Jesus had prophesied that He would arise from the grave.
  2. They didn't believe Him, but didn't want His body stolen & then claiming He arose.
  3. They convinced Pilate to put a Roman seal on the tomb & to place guards at the tomb.
- B. **Earthquake**
  1. Sometime before the women arrived there was an earthquake.
  2. An angel appeared whose brightness was like a bolt of lightning.
  3. That single angel rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb and sat down on it.
  4. The angel did not open the tomb to let Jesus out, but so everyone could see that Jesus was not in there. In His resurrection body He passed through the rock & went on His way.
- C. **Guards were afraid.**
  1. If these guards were from among the same group of men who had been involved in the crucifixion, they would have already been spooked.
  2. They saw how Jesus died & the events associated with His death. (**Matthew 27:54**)
  3. Likely some Roman guards taking part in Jesus' execution came to saving faith in Him
  4. So in the dark of the night, in a graveyard, this angel shows up like a bolt of lightning!
  5. The guards were so terrified they passed out. When they recovered, they gave testimony to the religious leaders concerning what they had seen.

### IV. **Angelic Instruction (Matthew 28:5-7)**

- A. **Do not be afraid.**
  1. The women saw the angel and they were afraid. The angel put them at ease.
  2. Soldiers: The soldiers had justifiable reason to be afraid, they were resisting God.
    - a. They were trying to seal a tomb where Jesus had already resurrected.
  3. Application: Those who are a friend of Jesus by saving faith have no need to fear.
- B. **Angelic testimony**
  1. – Jesus died.
    - a. The angel said, “**I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.**”
    - b. False teachers & heretics teach Jesus passed out & revived in the cool of the tomb.
    - c. The angel testified Jesus died a literal death. He was crucified which means He died.
  2. – Jesus resurrected from the dead.
    - a. Then the angel said, “**He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see**”
    - b. Likewise false teachers deny His resurrection saying today His body was stolen.
    - c. Lie began with religious leaders who paid the guards to say that was what happened.
  3. Subtle Rebuke: The angel implied the women should have believed Jesus initially.
- C. **Go and tell!**
  1. The men had forsaken Jesus in His hour of greatest need; therefore, they were not honored with seeing the angel or hearing first of the resurrection. Note 3 things:
    1. – Missing the blessings: Christian life is most fulfilled when lived close to Jesus.
    2. – Believing without seeing: Women were to testify & men were to believe.
    3. – Shepherding: Jesus told them to meet Him in Galilee.
      - a. Jesus would regather His flock and give them a new commission.
      - b. They would lay the foundation of the church & begin taking the gospel to the world.