

Gospel of Matthew “He Has Risen”
Matthew 28:1-15
August 11, 2024

Matthew 28:1-15

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

How do we know it happened?

Real places and real people.

The women weren't expecting the tomb to be empty.

The resistance to the idea of God coming in the flesh.

Flavius Josephus Quote

“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was Christ. And with Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal man among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold those and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named for him, are not extinct at this day.”

What does it mean?

The resurrection verifies our forgiveness

1 Corinthians 15:14-17

14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.
15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

The resurrection applies all that the cross accomplished.

Hebrews 7:23-25

23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.
25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

The resurrection is a new start under the reign of a risen savior.

The gospel and the resurrection become a functional identity.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Many think that the resurrection is a good starting place for skeptical people interested in Christianity. How might the resurrection fit in to your thoughts and presentation of the Christian faith to someone else?
- As you have thought about the cross and Jesus' sacrifice in salvation, how have you connected the resurrection to the overall work of Jesus? Did this message help you see the resurrection as part of God's plan of salvation?
- How does the resurrection vindicate Christ and express our justification?
- Ephesians 2:4-7 offers the idea that if we are made alive with Jesus, that we will also be with Him and He will be with us from now on. How does this comfort you? How might this also challenge and change you?
- How has the resurrection impacted a recent decision you've made? How might it?
- How can your Life Group encourage you to apply this message to your life this week?