

**Message #101****Matthew 28:1-10**

The program of God, as it relates to any group of people, whether Jew or Gentile, rests on two critical “pillars”: 1) The death of Jesus Christ; 2) The resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is, in fact, the Gospel of the kingdom and this is also the Gospel of grace.

**JESUS DEMONSTRATED HE IS THE KING OF THE JEWS AND THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD BY HIS RESURRECTION.**

Now let us remember that the entire nation knew He said He would rise again (Matt. 27:63). That of course is the reason why the tomb is guarded and sealed. The religious leaders knew of this prediction, most of Israel knew of it and certainly Christ’s disciples knew of it for Jesus had personally told His disciples that He would rise again (Matt. 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-18).

**FACT #1** – The first to go to the grave were Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. **28:1**

We know that the other women also were on the way to the grave very early in the morning, but these two were the first to arrive (actually Mary Magdalene is the first to get to the tomb (John 20:1). We also know from Mark’s account that they were all going to the grave to anoint the body with spices and they were wondering how they were going to get the stone rolled away from the grave (Mark 16:1-3). They are not going with the idea of seeing a resurrection. Now here is my question—if everyone knows that Jesus has predicted He will rise from the dead, where are all the people? **Thank God the fulfillment of His prophetic program is not contingent upon our faithfulness or our faith.**

**FACT #2** – An angel of the Lord appeared, causing a severe earthquake to roll back the grave stone. **28:2-3**

**We may remember that it was an angel of the Lord who announced Christ’s incarnation; it is only logical that an angel of the Lord would announce His resurrection.** The conjunction “for” gives us the explanation of why the stone was rolled away; because of the angel. **Now the reason why the stone is removed by the angel was not to let Jesus out—for He was already gone—but to let people in to see the empty tomb.** The angels of heaven become clear evidence that this is the heavenly King, the Anointed Messiah and Savior of God. No other person has angels announce his birth. No other person has angels show up to minister to him after a temptation. No other person has an angel to cause an earthquake and roll away a grave stone. This is God’s King; this is the Anointed of God, the only One who can save people from their sins. According to **verse 3**, this angel’s appearance was heavenly.

**FACT #3** – The guards shook and became like dead men. **28:4**

Literally these soldiers started physically shaking and fell to the ground, which means they either fainted or, because of fear, they dropped down. This is a Roman military guard. They are fearless and are used to going to war against other nations.

**FACT #4** – The angel speaks to the women. **28:5-7**

**(Message #1)** - Do not be afraid for I know you are looking for Jesus. **28:5**

The Greek is very emphatic here in that this angel is speaking to the women and not the soldiers. The soldiers do need to be afraid, but the women who loved Jesus did not need to be afraid. It is interesting that the admonition to not be afraid was given at Christ's birth and also at His resurrection. An angel told Zacharis not to be afraid (Luke 1:13); Mary not to be afraid (Luke 1:30); shepherds not to be afraid (Luke 2:10) and now the same message is given at Christ's resurrection. **Let me suggest that when it comes time for humans to face Jesus Christ, those who are not right with Him need to be very much afraid.**

**(Message #2)** - Jesus has gone and has risen like He said. **28:6a**

This is not a new revelation; this is fulfillment of revelation.

**(Message #3)** - You may come into the tomb and see the place where Jesus was lying. **28:6b**

No soldier was invited into the grave, but the faithful women were. This was the King's tomb. One writer has observed through a woman, death was first introduced to the world and through women the resurrection was first announced to the world.

**(Message #4)** - You go tell the disciples. **28:7**

There were two messages they were to tell Christ's disciples:

- 1) Jesus has risen from the dead.
- 2) Jesus will meet with you in Galilee.

Both of these messages would be important to these disciples, for in spite of their abandonment of Him, He had not abandoned them.

**FACT #5** – The women left the tomb quickly and ran to tell the disciples. **28:8**

**FACT #6** – Jesus met the women and greeted them. **28:9-10**

When the women saw Jesus, they took hold of His feet and worshipped Him. Jesus is God and this is God's King, and His resurrection absolutely proves it.