

Home Group Helps

Matthew 27:62 - 28:15

He Is Risen, Indeed!

I. Witnesses to the Resurrection (v.1-4, 8-10) – Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. ² And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. . . . ⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

II. Testimony to the Resurrection (v.5-7) – ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷ Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

III. Denial of the Resurrection (v.27:62-66; 28:11-15) – ¹¹ Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, *and is* to this day.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What are some of your earliest memories of Easter?

2. Observation Question(s):

How would you refute the following incorrect theories for the empty tomb?

1. Disciples stole the body – First idea put forth by the priests
2. Swoon/Coma theory – Jesus just passed out and woke up again in the tomb
3. No-burial or wrong grave theory – body was thrown into mass grave; Jesus was never buried in THE tomb
4. Hallucination theory – induced by ardent expectation, all hallucinated
5. Telepathy theory – no physical resurrection, but God sent a divine telepathic message to the believers making them think Jesus was alive
6. Séance theory – powerful spiritualist used dark powers to fool people
7. Mistaken identity theory – someone impersonating Jesus duped disciples
8. The Disciples were simply lying about the Resurrection - they fabricated the story of the resurrection to justify their position as leaders of the movement

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What does the resurrection of Christ teach us about God?

- What does the resurrection of Christ teach us about believers?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What does the truth of the resurrection of Christ mean to you?

5. Application Question(s):

- If you don't know Christ, you need to "come" and "see." If you do know Christ, you need to "go" and tell" the world that "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said."

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